THURSDAY
January 5, 2023
BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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THE WORLD'S
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BIRSA MUNDA HOCKEY STADIUM, ROURKELA

FIH ODISHA HOCKEY
MEN'S WORLD CUP 2023
BHUBANESWAR - ROURKELA
13 - 29 JANUARY 2023

CONSTRUCTED IN RECORD
15 MONTHS

WORLD CUP VILLAGE

RECOVERY CENTER

PRACTICE CENTER

WORLD CUP VILLAGE

RECOVERY CENTER

PRACTICE CENTER

INAUGURATION BY
SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, ODISHA
ON 5 JANUARY, 2023

- ONE OF THE HOST VENUES FOR THE FIH ODISHA HOCKEY MEN'S WORLD CUP
- 20,000+ SEATING CAPACITY
- BEST IN CLASS FACILITIES FOR PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS
- FULLY ACCESSIBLE FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED
- WORLD CUP VILLAGE WITH 225 BRAND NEW ROOMS PROVIDING EXCELLENT AMENITIES, CONSTRUCTED IN RECORD 9 MONTHS

Shri Naveen Patnaik
Hon'ble Chief Minister

TRANSPARENCY
TECHNOLOGY
TEAMWORK
TIME
TRANSFORMATION

DSPL-393
OIPR-29001/13/0041/2223

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OBC RESERVATION

SC stays HC's bar on quota for local polls

NEWS » PAGE 8

ZOOM SESSION

Stargazers pitch tent at Talacauvery

SOUTH » PAGE 5

PLEA AGAINST REMISSION

Justice Bela M. Trivedi opts out of Bilkis case

NEWS » PAGE 8

DISCORDANT NOTES

Muhammad Iqbal: a poet for all ages

Nation has forsaken 'Saare jahan se' writer

OPINION » PAGE 7

UNCERTAINTY IN U.S. HOUSE

McCarthy fails in fresh bid for Speaker post

WORLD » PAGE 11

Centre clears ₹19,744 cr. Green Hydrogen Mission

Plan is to reduce fossil fuel imports, decarbonise major sectors of the economy and turn the country into a global hub of production and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission with an initial outlay of ₹19,744 crore, in a move aimed at making the country a global hub to produce, utilise and export green hydrogen and its derivatives.

The government expects that the initiative will help abate nearly 50 million tonnes (MT) of annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and cumulatively reduce fossil fuel imports estimated at over ₹1 lakh crore.

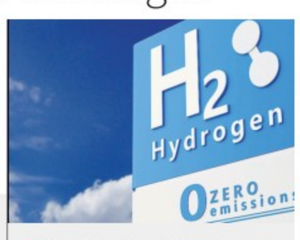
Briefing presspersons about the Cabinet decisions, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Minister Anurag Thakur said the mission would be instrumental in making India energy-independent and decarbonising major sectors of the economy.

The initial outlay includes ₹17,490 crore for the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT); ₹1,466 crore for pilot projects; ₹400 crore for research and development; and ₹388 crore for other mission components.

Hydrogen is sought after as a fuel because its combustion releases only steam. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is to formulate the scheme guidelines for implementation of the respective components.

GH2: promises & challenges

- Hydrogen produced is said to be 'green' if all its inputs are green. Decarbonisation plans of many countries include green hydrogen (GH_2) because combusting hydrogen releases only heat and steam
- 60% of India's energy comes from fossil fuel sources
- The production mode of choice of green hydrogen is through the electrolysis of water
- India currently lacks the required electrolysers and needs cheaper renewable energy



- Technologies to adapt hydrogen fuel cells for use in vehicles are largely immature in India
- Hydrogen leaks easily and liquid hydrogen reacts explosively with air, incurring significant storage and transport costs

Offers incentives

The government has already announced some incentives with a view to cutting the cost of hydrogen by half by 2030. They include priority power supply for manufacturers, concessions and short-term waivers for distributors and transmission costs, respectively; and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is expected to operate a single-window clearance system for proposals.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Bandhan Bank

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NEARBY

Nod to attach properties: CBI moves HC

BENGALURU
The CBI has moved the High Court seeking a direction to the government to consider its plea for grant of approval to move the special court for attaching Janardhana Reddy's properties. » Page 4

Construction sector hit

BENGALURU
Stone crushing units have been on an indefinite strike from December 21, and that has severely hit the construction sector. » Page 3

Notification on service charge for aggregator autorickshaws stayed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday stayed the notification issued by the State government restricting the service charge to be collected by the mobile app-based transport aggregators to only 5%, plus applicable GST, on the base fare fixed by the government for autorickshaws.

Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the interim order on the petitions filed by Ola and Uber cabs questioning the legality of the notification issued on November 25, 2022. The court said the stay would be in force till the final adjudication of the petitions.

Contrary to Act

The manner in which the power has been exercised by the State government is

prima facie contrary to the scheme of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, the court said. The notification has to be stayed, pending consideration of the petition as it was issued without taking into consideration the power of the State government on transport aggregators as contemplated under Section 93 of the MV Act and the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines-2020 issued by the Central government.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 3

Train ticketing platform RailYatri hit by data breach

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Train ticketing platform RailYatri on Wednesday confirmed that it suffered a data breach on December 28, shortly after the Railway Ministry denied that user data leaked from the Railways' side were being sold on the dark web.

"We observed a security breach in our system on December 28," a RailYatri spokesperson told *The Hindu*. "We quickly established the source and fixed it within a few hours. Some RailYatri-registered information limited to age, email and phone numbers may have been viewed by unauthorised individuals. No sensitive information has been compromised."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Services PMI shows surge in Dec., private sector output growth rises to 11-year high

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's services sector reported a sharp growth in new business in December, led by finance and insurance services, as per the S&P Global India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). The index rose to 58.5 last month from 56.4 in November 2022. A reading of 50 on the index indicates no change in business activity levels.

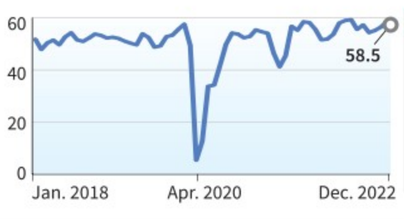
This is the 17th month in a row that new orders grew for services firms and the uptick was sharpest since August 2022, as per the survey-based PMI Business Activity Index, which reflected the strongest pace of overall growth in services since mid-2022.

With the India Manufacturing PMI also reporting a strong rise in December, the S&P Global India Composite PMI Output Index for the month sped from 56.7 in November to 59.4 in December, marking the quickest rate of growth for India's private sector since January 2012.

Real estate and business services saw the slowest expansion in new orders even as input cost inflation accelerated from November's levels, with firms mentioning wage pressures and higher prices for energy, food and transportation.

Services stride ahead

S&P Global India's Services Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 58.5 in December, the strongest expansion since mid-2022



- In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a score above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction

Source: PTI, CMIE

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8
EDITORIAL » PAGE 6

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Rising animal deaths on tracks, the CAG raises concern

63,345 The number of animals, including four Asiatic lions and 73 elephants that died on railway tracks from 2017-18 to 2020-21, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) cited. The CAG raised concerns in its report 'Performance Audit on Derailment in Indian Railways' to Parliament last month. PTI

Drastic decline in black fever since 2007, says Health Ministry

98.7 In percentage, the decline in cases of Kala-azar (black fever) from 44,533 in 2007 to 834 in 2022 in India, as the country aims to eradicate the disease by 2023, the Union Health Ministry informed. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, reviewing the status of the disease, stated 632 (99.8%) endemic blocks had achieved elimination status. PTI

Nod of approval for industrial projects by the TN government

15,610 In ₹ crore, the worth of industrial projects approved by the Tamil Nadu Cabinet, according to Industries Minister Thangam Thenarasu. The projects involved include electric vehicle manufacturing, cell-manufacturing plants, automobiles, wireless technology, oxygen plant, and textiles, the Minister added. PTI

WHO criticises China's 'narrow' definition of COVID deaths

22 The number of COVID-19 related deaths recorded by China since December. On Wednesday, the WHO criticised China's "very narrow" definition of COVID deaths, warning that official statistics were not showing the true impact of the outbreak. WHO's comments come amid growing concern over the steep rise in China's COVID infections. AFP

A decline in the survival rate of Delhi's transplanted trees

41 The percentage of trees that survived, out of the 8,508 trees transplanted in Delhi using modern technology in the April-September period, according to the Delhi government's outcome budget for the first two-quarters FY 2022-23. According to data, 64% of the 3,457 trees transplanted in 2021-22 survived. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Jallikattu: cultural practice or cruelty?

Why did the Supreme Court quash the Tamil Nadu Regulation of Jallikattu Act, 2009 in 2014? What has been the stand of the government on jallikattu? Can the event be recognised as a collective cultural and traditional right of the State of Tamil Nadu?

EXPLAINER

T. Ramakrishnan

The story so far:

With the Supreme Court recommencing its work after the winter vacation, all eyes in Tamil Nadu are on the verdict of a five-member Constitution Bench of the Court on a batch of petitions seeking to strike down a 2017 Tamil Nadu law that protects jallikattu, a traditional event involving bulls. As the conduct of the event will coincide with the Pongal festival, the Bench, which reserved its judgment on December 8, is expected to give its ruling next week.

How did the current litigation begin?

A massive agitation erupted on the Marina beach in Chennai in January 2017, demanding that the Central and State governments come up with a law that would annul the Supreme Court's ban on jallikattu which was imposed, through a judgment in May 2014 in the *Animal Welfare Board of India vs A. Nagaraja* case. Apart from demanding that the event be allowed again, the protesters had raised the issue of "redeeming Tamil identity and culture." Many prominent personalities, including film music director A.R. Rahman and chess maestro Viswanathan Anand, voiced their support for the bull-taming sport. It was against this context that the law in question was then enacted originally in the form of an Ordinance – the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Ordinance 2017. The Assembly had subsequently adopted a Bill to replace the Ordinance which resulted in the Court being moved and the case referred to the Constitution Bench in February 2018.

How is the case being presented now?

The primary question involved is whether jallikattu should be granted constitutional protection as a collective cultural right under Article 29 (1) – a fundamental right guaranteed under Part III of the Constitution to protect the educational and cultural rights of citizens. The court examined if the laws – the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act of 2017 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules of 2017 – "perpetuate cruelty to animals" or were actually a means to ensure "the survival and well-being of the native breed of bulls". This assumes relevance in the context of the Court quashing in 2014 the Tamil Nadu Regulation of Jallikattu Act, 2009, which had allowed jallikattu. The Court had then talked of how bulls were being "tortured to the hilt" in the process of performing for the event. The apex court then scrutinised the question of whether the new jallikattu laws were "relatable" to Article 48 of the Constitution which urged the state to endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines. The Constitution Bench also looked into whether jallikattu and bullock-cart race laws of Karnataka and Maharashtra would actually sub-serve the objective of "prevention" of cruelty to animals under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960.

Lock of horns: A youth trying the tame a bull during a jallikattu event at Palamedu in Madurai.ASHOK. R

What were the arguments adduced for and against jallikattu?

In Tamil Nadu, jallikattu is both a religious and cultural event celebrated by the people of the State and its influence extends beyond the confines of caste and creed. "A practice which is centuries-old and symbolic of a community's identity can be regulated and reformed as the human race evolves rather than being completely obliterated," the State government submitted. It added that any ban on such a practice would be viewed as "hostile to culture and against the sensitivities of the community." Describing jallikattu as "a tool for conserving this precious indigenous breed of livestock," the government argued that the traditional event did not violate principles of compassion and humanity. It contended that the traditional and cultural significance of the event and its intertwining with the sociocultural milieu was being taught in high school curriculum so that "the significance is maintained beyond generations." The petitioners' line of argument was that animal life was inextricably connected to the lives of humans. Liberty was "inherent in every living being, whether it be in any form of life," an aspect that had been recognised by the Constitution. The Tamil Nadu law was brought to circumvent the ban on jallikattu imposed by the Supreme Court. Placing their position on media reports about deaths and injuries caused to humans as well as bulls which had taken place in several districts of the State while conducting jallikattu, the petitioners contended that contrary to the arguments advanced by Tamil Nadu, several tamers pounced on bulls. According to them, "extreme cruelty" was inflicted on the animals. Also, there was no material to justify jallikattu as a part of culture. The critics had equated the event with practices such as sati and dowry, which were also once recognised as part of culture and stopped through legislation.

THE GIST

The verdict of a five-member Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on a batch of petitions seeking to strike down a 2017 Tamil Nadu law that protects jallikattu, a traditional event involving bulls, is expected next week.

Jallikattu is a religious and cultural event celebrated by the people of Tamil Nadu. Describing jallikattu as "a tool for conserving this precious indigenous breed of livestock," the government argued that the traditional event did not violate principles of compassion and humanity. It added that any ban on such a practice would be viewed as "hostile to culture and against the sensitivities of the community."

The petitioners' line of argument was that animal life was inextricably connected to the lives of humans. According to them, "extreme cruelty" was inflicted on the animals.

Why has a high-power Ladakh committee been formed?

Why is the Union Territory asking for protection of the region under the sixth schedule of the Constitution? What has been the government's response? What is the mandate of the newly constituted committee?

Vijaita Singh

The story so far:

On January 2, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) constituted a high-powered committee chaired by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai for the Union Territory of Ladakh. The committee will discuss measures to protect the region's unique culture and language taking into consideration its geographical location and strategic importance; ensure protection of land and employment for the people of Ladakh; strategise inclusive development and discuss issues related to the empowerment of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill District Councils of Leh and Kargil.

Why was the committee formed?

Civil society groups in Ladakh have been demanding protection of land, resources and employment for the past three years after the special status of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution was read down by Parliament on August 5, 2019. The fear of big businesses and conglomerates taking away land and jobs from the local people have contributed to this demand.

What is the sixth schedule?

The sixth schedule under Article 244 of the Constitution protects the autonomy of tribal populations through creation of autonomous development councils which can frame laws on land, public health and agriculture. As of now ten autonomous councils exist in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

As per the 2011 Census, the total population of Ladakh was 2,74,289, and nearly 80% of them are tribals.

What is the background?

In 2020, the Peoples Movement for Constitutional safeguard under the sixth schedule or the Apex Body, Leh was formed. They announced that they would boycott the upcoming district autonomous council elections if their demands were not met. The representatives which included former BJP MP Thupstan Chhewang and Skyabje Thiksey Khampo Rinpochey were called to Delhi for a meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah following which they called off the boycott call. They were assured that discussions would commence after 15 days of the culmination of elections. In the same year, the Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) from the two districts of Leh and Kargil in Ladakh came together to jointly fight for constitutional safeguards for the region. On August 2, 2022, the two bodies renewed their demand to seek full Statehood for Ladakh. The UT has shut down at least twice and protested several occasions in the past three years over these demands.

However, members of the new committee state that the MHA order instituting the committee is not clear as it avoids any mention of the primary demand for inclusion under the sixth schedule of the Constitution. Moreover, even before the committee was announced, the Apex Body and KDA had scheduled a meeting in Jammu on January 7 to chart the future course of action.

What is the government's stand?

Not keen to give any special status to Ladakh, the MHA informed a parliamentary standing committee recently that the objective for inclusion of tribal population under the sixth schedule is to ensure their overall socio-economic development, which, the UT administration has already been taking care of and that sufficient funds are being provided to Ladakh to meet its overall developmental requirements. A report tabled in Rajya Sabha on December 13, 2022, quoted MHA officials, that the Ladakh administration recently increased the reservation for the Scheduled Tribes in direct recruitment from 10% to 45% which will significantly help the tribal population in their development.

THE GIST

On January 2, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) constituted a high-powered committee chaired by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai for the Union Territory of Ladakh.

However, members of the new committee state that the MHA order instituting the committee is not clear as it avoids any mention of the primary demand for inclusion under the sixth schedule of the Constitution.

The sixth schedule under Article 244 of the Constitution protects the autonomy of tribal populations through creation of autonomous development councils.

CENTRE FOR NANO AND SOFT MATTER SCIENCES

Arkavathi, Survey No.7, Shivanapura, Dasanapura Hobli,
BENGALURU NORTH 562 162

No. CeNS/2022-23/Rec./Advt — 30 December 2022

Recruitment in Faculty position

The Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) is a premiere scientific autonomous institute under the aegis of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, carrying out Research & Development of specific areas in Nano Science and Technology including Soft Matter. It also emphasizes on basic research leading to new phenomena, processes and prototyping of devices. CeNS invites applications for a Faculty position of Scientist C from eligible individuals who wish to complement and extend the CeNS research activities.

Positions	Pay Level
Scientist 'C' (One post)	Rs. 15600-39100 - Level 10 7th CPC

Interested candidates may apply for the position in the prescribed ***online format*** **(https://www.cens.res.in/en/opportunities/scientific-and-technical)**.
The applicant should upload copies of two important publications, a statement of research plans, a statement of technology initiative plans, and arrange to have three letters of recommendation along with the application. Last date to receive completed online applications is **20 January 2023.**

Sd/-
Administration and Finance Officer

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through e-procurement portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two cover system from eligible tenderers for the following works.

Name of the Work	Amount put to tender / EMD
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore- 560 009.	
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(WWM-P-West)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/6172/2022-23 Date: 04.01.2023	
Work of Design and Construction of up-gradation of existing 20MLD Capacity STP extended Aeration based on A20 process at Nagasandra Phase-1, Bangalore and 15 MLD ISPS at Medarahalli, 30 MLD ISPS at Bagalgunte, 25 MLD ISPS at NK Halli along with Pumping Mains and with Operation and Maintenance for a period of 7 years (2 years during Work Contract and Five (5) Years after Work Contract) on Turnkey Basis.	Rs. 39.337 Crore / Rs. 46.42 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(WWM-P-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/6174/2022-23 Date: 04.01.2023	
Work of Design and Construction of up-gradation of existing 20MLD Capacity STP and capacity augmentation to 35 MLD at Doddabele, Bangalore and construction of New ISPS of 15 MLD capacity and Operation and Maintenance for a period of Five (5) years on Turnkey Basis.	Rs. 32.81 Crore / Rs. 38.02 Lakhs

Last date and time for receipt of tenders will be on: **27.01.2023 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Date of opening of Technical bids will be on: **30.01.2023 at 16:00 Hrs.** The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/3876/2022-23 — **Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief.**

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division: Yadgir.
GSTIN:29BLR002252F1DR

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-1/e-Tender/2022-23/6326, Dated: 03.01.2023

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Details of works: On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTTP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-4 Karnataka Public Works Department invites item Rate Tender by Two Cover System Through e-Procurement Portal from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following work IMPROVEMENTS OF ROAD FROM KARIBETTA CROSS TO MADHAWAR VILLAGE (SELECTED REACHES) (MUDHOL-YELGERA SH-127 FROM KM 63.42 TO 67.705) AT YADGIRI TALUKA YADAGIRI DIST. (UNDER KKRDB MACRO (SDP, SCP & TSP) FOR THE YEAR OF 2022-23) Work Indent No 163231. 2) Estimate Cost:Rs.680.306 Lakhs. 3) Contractor Eligible Details: Class-1 & Above 4) Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details: Tender Fee as per e-proc and EMD Rs.8,64,800.00 5) Date & Time for Pre-Bid Meeting:13.01.2023 (11.30 hrs Onwards) 6) Date & Time for receipt of queries:16.01.2023 (17.30 hrs).7) Last Date & Time for submission of the tender in e-procurement portal:18.01.2023 (16.00 hrs) 8) Date & Time of Opening of the Tender/ Technical Bid: 20.01.2023 (11.30 hrs Onwards). 9) Date & Time of Opening of the Tender/ Financial Bid: 24.01.2023 (11.30 hrs Onwards) 10) For More Details Contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division : Yadgir.11) Website Address: www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in.
NOTE: Any Corrections/Changes will be done on the E-Portal only

DIP/Yadagiri/391/K.S.M.C&A/2022-23 — **SD/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division:Yadgir.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owners, who are the sons of late T.Marishamaiah, namely **(1) Sri.T.M.Nanjaraju,** aged about 68 years, residing at 9th Cross, Out House, B.H Road, Halappa Circle, VTC Bhadravati, Bhadravati Post, Shivamogga District 577301 **(2) Sri.T.M.Shivaswamy,** aged about 66 years, residing at No.2, 5th Cross Road, Raghavendra Layout, Opp. Jay Lake View Apartment, Muddayanapalya Giddadakonenahalli, Bengaluru-560091 **(3) Sri.T.M.Jayaram,** aged about 64 years, residing at #05, Vijayalakshmi Krupa, 2nd Stage, 6th Cross, Baddihalli Road, Near Tuda Park, Gokula Extension Kyathasandra, Tumkur 572104 they having acquired title to the same by a Gift Deed dated 28.02.2018, registered as Document HLS-1-05532/2017-18 of Book I, stored in CD No.HLSD158 at the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Halasuru, Bengaluru.

All persons/ firms/ companies/ banks/ financial institutions having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described are called upon to intimate the same in writing, to the undersigned at the below given address, along with all supporting documents relating to such claim, within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim, of any party, shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes, and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my client will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential vacant **Site No.289** (PID No.82-1-289) measuring on the East :17'-09", West:40'-00",North: 25'-04",and South: 33'-09", in all measuring **2119 square feet** situated at Binnamangala I Stage, presently 6th Cross, Indiranagar I Stage, Bengaluru 560 038 and bounded as follows:
East : Site Nos.293 and 294;
West : Road;
North : Site No.288;
South : Site No.290.

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038
Place: Bengaluru Date: 04.01.2023

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Lenin Center, Governerpet, Vijayawada - 520002 (A.P.)

E Procurement Tender Notice (Second Call)

Tender cum- Reverse Auctioning or Reverse Tendering

NIT No. 06/MAU61-USI0HB(BG)/21/2022-HB/2nd Call Dated : 02.01.2023

Name of Work : "Providing External Electrical works and other essential items to the 14 additional court halls of the AP High Court, Nelapadu" - Tender cum reverse Auction/ Reverse Tendering – **Estimate Amount of Rs. 4,65,00,000/-**
The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 05.01.2023 to 20.01.2023 up to 14.00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid 20.01.2023 up to 15.00 Hrs, Technical bid opening 20.01.2023 @16.00Hrs. For further details please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **www.crda.ap.gov.in**

Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/TKR/TZ/SEE(O)/AEE-2/10740-42 Date: 04.01.2023

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites bid against Enquiry No. KPTCL/CEE/TZ/TKR/2nd CIRCUIT/NEL-YRG/TLTB-2/Call-3 for Stringing of 2nd circuit line on existing DC towers from 220/66kV Neelagunda S/s to 66kV Yaragunta S/s via Telagi in the existing corridor for a dist. of 30.848 Kms along with Construction of 66kV Terminal bay at 66/11kV Yaragunta in Harihara Taluk & Davanagere Taluk, Davanagere Dist including Supply of all matching materials/Equipments and Erection (Including Civil Works) of all Materials / Equipments, Testing and Commissioning on Total Turnkey basis. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "e-procurement-KPTCL" or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 05.01.2023.** Any other details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele), Transmission Zone, KPTCL,
Siddaganga Complex, B.H. Road, Tumakuru. Ph: 0816-2279074

ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲಾಲ್ ಬಾಗ್ ಸಸ್ಯತೋಟ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560004. ದೂ: 080–26578184.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DH/LBG/OLBGA/14/2022 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.01.2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಲಾಲ್ ಬಾಗ್ ಸಸ್ಯತೋಟದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುವ ಜನವರಿ – 2023 ರ ಫಲಪುಷ್ಪ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನದ ಪೂರ್ವ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆಗಾಗಿ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ – ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **03.01.2023** ರಿಂದ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **10.01.2023** ಸಂಜೆ: **05.30** ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು (ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ಅಥವಾ **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
DDH/LBG/SKUP/CW1/42/2022-23	Supply of Prepared Food	ರೂ.14.25
DDH/LBG/SKUP/CW1/43/2022-23	Installation of Temporary Super Structures, Tents, Barricade and Furniture's	ರೂ.50.00
DDH/LBG/SKUP/CW1/46/2022-23	Supply of Ticketing Machines on Rental Basis with Man Power Support	ರೂ.15.00

ಸಹಿ/–
ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಲಾಲ್‌ಬಾಗ್ ಸಸ್ಯತೋಟ

DIPR/CP/MIA/3858/2022-23

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru - 560 001,
Ph: 080-25581383/ 25589112, Fax: 080-2558 6321
Email: contact@kspcb.gov.in Website: kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No:PCB/FIN/2022-23/1966 Date : 02-01-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Gok e-procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

Karnataka state pollution control Board (K.S.P.C.B) invites tenders from the IRDA licensed Public Sector Undertakings & Private Insurance Companies for Life coverage specified in the tender document under Group Term Policy **(01.03.2023 to 29.02.2024)** for the Board's permanent employees in lieu of EDLI Scheme 1976.

The interested Public Sector undertakings and Private Insurance Companies are requested to visit the e-procurement portal http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

The tender will be commencing on **03.01.2023** and the last date for uploading the filled tender document is **18.01.2023** up to 5.30 P.M. Opening of technical bid is on **19.01.2023** and opening of financial bid will be intimated later.

Sd/-
MEMBER SECRETARY

DIPR/CP/3874/GREENFMC/2022-23

OUR MOTTO IS TO MINIMIZE WASTE GENERATION THROUGH JUDICIOUS USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), East Zone,
16th Floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bengaluru

No.: BBMP/EE/ELE/East/TEND/06/2022-23 Date: 05.01.2023

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Short Term / Single Cover)
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer (Elect), East Zone, invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any other equivalent Central / State Government organisations for electrical work as detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Providing structured Networking and Allied works at office of the Joint Commissioner (East) and Public Utility Building's various offices for implementation of e-office.	12.23	30,600/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal from **06.01.2023**. **(2)** Bids must be submitted online through the e-procurement portal on or before **13.01.2023 by 4:00 p.m. (3)** Date of opening of tenders **17.01.2023** at **4:00 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Elec.), East Zone, BBMP

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ,
ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ಬೇಗೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಗ್ರಾಪಂ/ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ/01/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05–01–2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದರ್ಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಎನ್‌ರೋಲ್ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ
1	ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ ನಂ. 01 ರಿಂದ 09 ರವರೆಗೆ ಬೀದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಗೊಳಿಸಿ, ಶೇಖರಣೆಯಾಗುವ ಕಸವನ್ನು ಹೊರಗೆ ಸಾಗಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಹೂಳು ತೆಗೆದು ಹೊರಗೆ ಸಾಗಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ – 2023 ರಿಂದ 12 ತಿಂಗಳುಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ)	ರೂ. 493000/– (ಪ್ರತಿ ಮಾಹೆ)	ರೂ. 12,325/–
2	ಗೋವಿಂದಶೆಟ್ಟಿಪಾಳ್ಯ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ ನಂ. 10 ರಿಂದ 17 ರವರೆಗೆ ಬೀದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಗೊಳಿಸಿ, ಶೇಖರಣೆಯಾಗುವ ಕಸವನ್ನು ಹೊರಗೆ ಸಾಗಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಹೂಳು ತೆಗೆದು ಹೊರಗೆ ಸಾಗಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ – 2023 ರಿಂದ 12 ತಿಂಗಳುಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ)	ರೂ. 466000/– (ಪ್ರತಿ ಮಾಹೆ)	ರೂ. 5,825/–
3	ದೊಡ್ಡನಾಗಮಂಗಲ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ ನಂ. 18 ರಿಂದ 21 ರವರೆಗೆ ಬೀದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಗೊಳಿಸಿ, ಶೇಖರಣೆಯಾಗುವ ಕಸವನ್ನು ಹೊರಗೆ ಸಾಗಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಹೂಳು ತೆಗೆದು ಹೊರಗೆ ಸಾಗಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ – 2023 ರಿಂದ 12 ತಿಂಗಳುಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ)	ರೂ. 345000/– (ಪ್ರತಿ ಮಾಹೆ)	ರೂ. 8,625/–

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾದ ಅವಧಿ: **12 ತಿಂಗಳು.**
2) ಖಾಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಬೆಲೆ: **ರೂ. 2000/– ಹಾಗೂ ತೆರಿಗೆ.**
3) ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ: **ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 1 ಮತ್ತು 3ಕ್ಕೆ 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು (ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗ) ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 2ಕ್ಕೆ 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು (ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ / ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ).**

ಖಾಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06–01–2023** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **20–01–2023**ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು/ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, **ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು** ರವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21–01–2023**ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ **ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗೆ** ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/3871/ಆಡಳಿತ/ಎಫ್ /2022–23

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GODWIN S/O A. Maria Susai Nathan born on 23.03.1977 residing at 104 Purnima Platina Apt Lakeshore Homes road Kasavanahalli Bangalore–35, have changed my name to M. Godwin Nathan vide affidavit dated 29/12/2022 at Bangalore

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIRMALA, r/at No.67/4, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004 have changed my name as Nirmala Upparapallivide affidavit dtd 04.01.2023 sworn before Notary A.Manjula, Bluru

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

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Session 2: Jan 13
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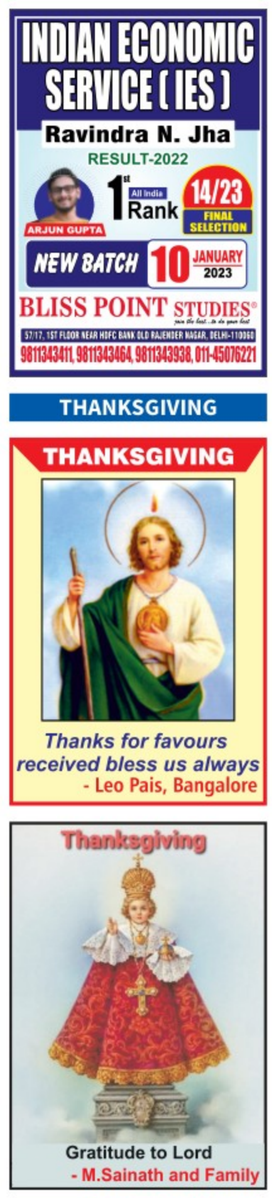
EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL



THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING

Thanks for favours received bless us always
- Leo Pais, Bangalore

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 57th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH- 58) O.S. NO. 25828/2020

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED, Having its Registered office at Land Mark, Race Course Circler, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051 and its branch office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 067
...Plaintiff

And
Sri. T.G. Kumara **...Defendant**

Summons to Defendant

To,
Sri. T. G. Kumara,
S/o. Sri. Thattahalli Gunde,
No. 45, Sugnss Layout, 1st Cross, KEL Colony,
Basaveshwara Nagar,
Bangalore- 560 079
...Defendant

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for for recovery **Rs. 6,35,892/- (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five Only)** together with interest @ **24% p.a.,** cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 57th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH- 58) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on **15/02/2023** at **11.00 a.m.** failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 02nd January, 2023.

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT, DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYOHALL UNIT, BENGALURU
ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my clients intend to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owner **Smt. Vijaya H. Shetty,** wife of late K. Harijeevan Shetty, residing at No.336, 7th Main, Opposite Sourabhi Salon, HAL 2nd Stage, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru 560 008, she having acquired title to the same by Inheritance / Release Deed dated 19.11.2022 registered as Document INR-1-10557/2022-23 of Book I, stored in CD No.INRD1214 at the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar (Indiranagar) Bengaluru.

All persons, banks, financial institutions, firms, companies having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned at the below given address along with all the documents relating to such claim within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my clients will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site bearing Municipal **No.336** (PID No.74-1-336) measuring East to West: 49 feet and North to South: 70 feet, in all measuring **3430 square feet** together with a residential house consisting of Ground Floor measuring 1530 sq.ft and First Floor measuring 424.96 sq.ft in Middle Income Group Housing Scheme Block, HAL II Stage Extension, Bengaluru 560 008, Ward No.80- Hoysalanagar (Old Ward No.74) and bounded as follows:
East : Site No.335
West : Site No.337
North : Site No.318
South : Road

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038
Place: Bengaluru Date: 04.01.2023

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI

No:EE/PWD/KD/TS-4/Tender Notification/2022-23/ 7448 Date: 31.12.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender for the 19 work under KKRDB Micro and Mega Macro Head of account and 02 8443 DCW Head of account and 06 work under 2059 & 2216 Head of account through e-portal Indent No. 162103, 162108, 162110, 162078, 161977, 162169, 162331,162330, 162329, 160606, 152470/Call-2, 154114, 161246/Call-2, 158682/Call-2, 159242/Call-2, 158076/Call-2, 159245/Call-2, 152480/Call-2, 161432, 161729/Call-2,152428/Call-2, 159835, 158834, 157980, 157964, 158768, and 161986, 2) Estimated Cost: **Min Rs, 25.64 Lakhs, Max. Rs, 254.90 Lakhs**, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class I, Class II & Class III, 4) Tender fees and EMD details: Application fees as per e-procurement : EMD Min Rs, 52000.00 Max. Rs, 383000.00, 5) Date of Pre-Bid meeting : **16/01/2023 (11.00 Hrs)**, 6) Last date for queries: **17/01/2023(17.30 Hrs),** 7) Last date for submission of tender : **18/01/2023 (16.00 Hrs)**, 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid : **19/01/2023 (16.30 Hrs)**, 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid : **23/01/2023 (16.30 Hrs)**, 10) Address for Enquiries & Clarifications: Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) website : **www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIP/Kalaburagi/1059/MC&A/2022-23 — **Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI

(Office of the Executive Engineer, H & FWD Engineering Division, # PWD Quarters No: 110-D, Opp: HKES Womens Polytechnic Iwan-E-Shahi Colony Kalaburagi-585102
Phone/Fax No-08472 – 241982. E–mail-ee.khsdrp.klb@gmail.com

No: HFW/EE/DIVN/KLB/AE-1/15th F.C/ T.G/2022-23/1012 Date: 02-01-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Division, Kalaburagi invites tenders in Two Cover Documents system from eligible Class-III & Above contractors registered in KPWD in e-procurement for Construction of 04 No's of Health and Wellness Centers in Kalaburagi, Bidar, Raichur & Ballari Districts works of the Health and Family Welfare Department. Each work Project Cost - **Rs. 62.50.00 lakhs** and stipulated period for completion- 05months including monsoon- (Refer e-portal for the details).

Calendar of Events:
1) Last date for receipt of tenders : **17-01-2023 upto 16:00 hrs.** 2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : **18-01-2023 at 16:30 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the e-Procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and Earnest Money Deposit and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the under signed for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids /individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through news papers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal.

DIP/Kalaburagi/1062/MC&A/2022-23 — **Sd/- Executive Engineer H & FWD Engineering Division, Kalaburagi**

Crime in Bengaluru last year recorded marginal increase, but it was lower than in 2019

Elaborating on crimes against women and children, Police Commissioner says that 153 rape cases were registered in 2022 and 149 were related to love, marriage, live-in-relationships, and the accused were related to the victims

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Though the city recorded a marginal rise in the number of heinous crimes in 2022 compared to the two pandemic years of 2020 and 2021, it did not breach levels of 2019, according to the crime statistics presented by City Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy on Wednesday.

Mr. Reddy said that the city police have maintained their track record and solved most of the heinous cases reported.

Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy at a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI

Murder cases

Analysing the murder cases in 2022, Mr. Reddy said a majority of the incidents occurred due to personal enmity, property disputes or illicit affairs.

However 17 out of the total 172 murder cases this year are due to murder for gain and the police have cracked all the cases, he said.

Elaborating on crimes against women and children, Mr. Reddy said that 153 rape cases were registered in 2022 and 149 were related to love, marriage, live-in-relationships, and the accused were related to the victims.

"Other cases include the bike taxi customer gangrape, a homealone woman raped in Pulikeshinagar, housekeeping staff raped by school bus driver in Chandra Layout and they have been detected," he said, also observing that cases related to dowry harassment, domestic violence, and POCSO Act, 2012 had seen a 30% increase compared to the previous year.

Data shows BCP recorded 8,773 incidents in the Cyber Information Report (CIR) system, of which they disposed of 7,734 incidents and froze 13.06 crore from different bank accounts.

The police have also recovered narcotics worth ₹89.5 crore, the highest ever for the city

Foreigners caught

Out of 600 foreigners staying illegally in and around the city, the police have tracked 34 of them and deported them back to their countries.

Another set of 50 have been traced and sent to the detention centre, and are awaiting deportation procedure to kick in.

The city police have recovered narcotics worth ₹89.5 crore, the highest ever for the city, the Commissioner said.

Technology use

Giving an update on the use of technology in policing in the city, Mr. Reddy said BCP had cracked 169 critical cases using the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System and were effectively using Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems to track down habitual offenders on the run. He also said BCP had installed 4,100 CCTV cameras in the city under the Safe City Project.

Crime graph

Crime	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Rep	Det	Rep	Det	Rep	Det	Rep	Det
Murder	204	198	177	174	154	152	172	172
Dacoity	39	35	31	31	36	36	23	22
Robbery	506	408	377	336	364	325	478	351
Chain snatching	225	214	152	151	166	165	151	134
HBT (by day)	324	180	130	86	135	77	179	70
HBT (night)	950	415	780	435	654	354	701	229
Vehicle thefts	4,772	1,706	3,797	1,317	4,124	1,556	5,066	1,189

Fatalities in accidents back to pre-pandemic levels, though number of accidents dropped

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The number of fatalities in traffic accidents returned to pre-pandemic levels in the city, with 777 people killed in 748 accidents during 2022. This had dipped during 2020 and 2021, due to lockdowns.

However, the total number of accidents in 2022, at 3,827, has reduced by over 18% compared to 2019, the year before the pandemic. "On an average, six accidents were reported for every 10,000 vehicles prior to 2022, which reduced to 3.53 this year. In spite of the increase in vehicles, the number of accidents have considerably come down. This can be attributed to effective accident prevention measures," said M.A. Saleem, Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Bengaluru.

Moreover, the number of accidents reported in 2022, is not significantly higher than those reported in 2020 and 2021 when long periods of lockdowns were imposed, he added.

BTP collected ₹179.2 crore as penalties for violation of traffic norms, during 2022, the highest ever in the city.

Dr. Saleem observed that in 2018 of all the violation cases booked, 62% were physically booked by police personnel (contact) and 38% contactless using technology, a scenario that has drastically reversed in 2022: 92% were booked contactless and only 8% of the cases physically.

BTP collected ₹179.2 crore as penalties for violation of traffic norms during 2022, the highest ever in the city. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Accidents and cases booked

Number of fatal and non-fatal accidents reported in the last five years

Year	Total no. of accidents reported	Killed	Injured
2018	4,611	686	4,129
2019	4,684	768	4,250
2020	3,236	647	2,760
2021	3,213	654	2,820
2022	3,827	777	3,235

Total no. of cases booked and fine collected in the last five years

Cases booked in the last three years

Type of offences	2020	2021	2022
Reckless driving	12,388	6,666	10,990
Overspeeding	59,071	55,482	50,186
Drunken driving	5,343	4,144	26,376
Refusing for hire	11,623	363	2,186
Demanding excess fare	11,808	644	2,178
Defective silencer	2,586	2,501	1,423
Wheeling	11	25	85
Without driving licence	20,646	10,421	25,055
Jumping traffic signal	8,90,466	8,22,529	4,24,525
Lane discipline	61,829	21,762	15,608
Wrong parking	7,28,239	7,25,929	12,14,436
Parking on footpath	45,455	74,851	1,54,360
Using mobile phone	2,23,335	1,38,608	1,57,686
No safety belt	3,08,145	1,36,519	1,23,342
Rider - without helmet	31,84,367	39,00,651	44,05,465
Pillion rider - without helmet	19,10,816	23,09,563	25,92,923

Girl's stabbing on campus: Security enhanced at educational institutions

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

After the recent murder of a student at Presidency University on Monday which sent shockwaves everywhere, colleges and universities across the city have started amping up their security and holding counselling sessions for their students to prevent untoward incidents.

Guards at educational institutions are now being more stringent than ever to ensure that no one without an ID card or official permission enters the campus. Most managements called for a meeting to discuss security measures with their lecturers and other staff involved, following the incident.

"We have decided that if someone comes here for an official visit without an ID card, then their details and phone number and purpose of visit etc. is noted down on record. We have tight security at all gates. We are also thinking of incorporating hand-held metal detectors at entry gates," said Augustine George, principal, Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous.

Although educational institutions had several norms before, they are reinforcing them in a heightened manner now. FILE PHOTO

Although educational institutions had several norms around before, they are reinforcing them in a heightened manner now.

"We have an ongoing process where we have faculty and staff training sessions where they are trained how to talk to students, how to check for ID cards, where the nearest hospital is, how to give first aid, and other such things. We also had two ex-servicemen with us for security purposes the last six to eight months. In the light of recent incidents, we are definitely re-emphasising these measures and remaining alert," said Christo V. Joseph, Director, Garden City University.

With the fest season coming up, institutions are also trying to implement new systems which ensure the safety of students even when those from other colleges enter their premises.

"We already have a strict security regime in place where we issue separate passes even for visitors and there is CCTV camera surveillance. When intercollegiate fests take place, we are planning to introduce QR codes for passes so that we will exactly know who is entering the campus", said Kiran Jeevan, Public Relations and Placement Officer, St Joseph's University.

The lecturers at many institutions are also being asked to guide students towards help if they are facing relationship issues or problems at home. With counselling cells present at most places, students are being urged to use them.

"We do not want to create unnecessary panic, but if they need any help, we have resources," said a management member of a private college.

Shakti's 50th anniversary tour to kick off on January 20 in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 50th anniversary tour of Shakti, the Indo-Jazz fusion band, will kick off with their first concert in Bengaluru on January 20.

The 50th Anniversary Concert is presented by JSW Group, in Association with HSBC, and co-sponsored by *The Hindu* and 100 Pipers Glassware, promoted and produced by Hyperlink Brand Solutions & Paytm Insider.

Formed by three musicians in 1973, the band now comprises John Mclaughlin, Zakir Hussain, Shankar Mahadevan, Ganesh Rajagopalan, and V. Selvaganesh, who have come together for a world tour, and a studio album. After the concert in Bengaluru, the band will travel to Mumbai, Kolkata, and New Delhi for more shows. In summer and fall, they will continue the tour in Europe and America. The concerts will be an "east - meets - west musical confluence" the organisers said. "It's really a thrill," McLaughlin said of Shakti's 50th anniversary plans. "I'm delighted to be part of this marvellous tradition of the Shakti group."

The band Shakti comprises John Mclaughlin, Zakir Hussain, Shankar Mahadevan, Ganesh Rajagopalan, and V. Selvaganesh.

"This group is everything that I could possibly imagine in a music offering," said Zakir Hussain. "As far as I'm concerned, it is the pinnacle, the musical nirvana of my musical career," he added.

Sangita Jindal, Chairperson, JSW Foundation, said, "Shakti championed the cause of fusion, bringing Indian and Western music forms together. Their music nourishes the soul, and energises the mind. Supporting their 50th Anniversary World Tour in India reinforces JSW's idea of unity in diversity and celebrates the glory of creative collaboration across borders."

Bengaluru school students bag second prize and special jury award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Class IX students of Sri Siddaganga Higher Primary School, Chandra Layout, Bengaluru, participated in the CBSE national adolescent summit on life skills, mental health, safety and wellness, organised by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in association with Expression India,

The national life skills and school wellness programme was held from December 15 to 17.

According to a statement from the school, its students participated in various events and won the second prize in 'Nukkad Ki Pathshala' a drama on 'Save the Girl Child', and a special jury award in exhibition.

BMRCL, traffic police open prefixed autorickshaw counters at M.G. Road and Cubbon Park metro stations

A file photo of the Cubbon Park station. The prefixed auto counter is aimed at providing first and last-mile connectivity to the users.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On Wednesday, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and the city traffic police opened two prefixed auto rickshaw counters at M.G. Road and Cubbon Park metro stations.

More counters

In the coming days, the authorities have planned to open such counters at the entry and the exit gates of Banashankari, Baiyappanahalli, and Nagasandra metro stations.

The initiative is aimed at providing first and last-mile connectivity to the metro users.

In a press release, the BMRCL stated that the counters will operate from 7 a.m to 12.30 a.m. The staff required to run the counters will be provided by the two agencies.

A minimum fare of ₹30 will be charged for the first two kilometres and ₹15 thereafter for every km. From 10 p.m to 5 a.m, it will be one-and-a-half times the normal fare. A service charge of ₹2 will be applicable.

The commuter has to inform the destination at the counter and collect the travel slip containing details about the driver's name, the mobile number, the registration number of the auto, the destination, the contact number of the passenger, and amount to be paid.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
EDUCATION & WELFARE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, VIJAYAWADA

e-procurement Tender Notice

NIT No: 122 to 138/MD/APEWIDC/VJA/2022-23, Dated: 04.01.2023

NIT No: 122 to 138, downloading commencement on 07.01.2023 and closing date may be viewed in e-procurement.gov.in

1. Tenders are invited from the Original Equipment Manufactures (OEM)/ Original Equipment Manufacturing firms / Companies for various products / items and Services under Mana Badi:Nadu-Nedu Programme Phase-II in various Packages for Procurement of Green Chalk Boards, Drinking Water Purifiers / systems, Outdoor Play Equipment, Furniture (Kids Chair, Moon Table), Double Skin powder coated GI openable / casement single rebate Windows, and Providing the Consultancy Service for Third Party Quality Audit (TPQA) products / items for Govt. Schools (Educational Institutions) in Andhra Pradesh.

Further details may be viewed at **http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** Contact No.**08645 295758.**

Note: 1. Changes / amendment if any will only be communicated through above e-procurement platform.

2. Reverse auction applicable as per G.O.Ms.No.67, dated 16.08.2019 of Water Resources (Reforms) Department and G.O No:79, Dated: 25.08.2020 of the Finance (HR.V-TFR) Dept.

Sd/- Managing Director, APEWIDC, Vijayawada

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Sri.Beeralingaiah S/o Late Masthaiah** to bring the notice of the general public that the **original registered absolute sale deed, bearing Doc.No. MDL-1-01121/2012-13, CD No. MDLD109, date.18.05.2012,** registered in the office of the sub-register, Madanayakanahalli, Bangalore, executed by **Smt.Padmamma W/o Sri.B.J.Ramaiah,** in favour of **Smt.Kariyamma W/o Sri. Beeralingaiah** is missing / lost / misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing **Site No.6,** property No.39, formed in Sy.No.46, Situated at **Doddipalya Village, Bettanagere Dhakale,** now comes under the jurisdiction of **Huskuru Village Panchayath, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore** and bounded by: **East by: Land of same survey number, West by : Road, North by : Site No.07, South by : Site No.05.**

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

CAREERS

GETTY IMAGES

Reading newspapers effectively to prepare for the civil services examination

The all-India third rank holder of the 2021 UPSC exams looks back at her study regime and how it changed during the three stages of the exam. She explains why general awareness and analysing and debating a topic from different angles are a must

Gamini Singla

Gamini Singla cleared the 2021 civil services examination (CSE) conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) with an all-India third rank. The journey wasn't easy, with Singla failing the first Prelims exam in October 2020. She came out with flying colours in her second attempt, and decided to write a book about her experience when she received many requests to share her strategy, timetable and other aspects for her preparation. An excerpt from How I Topped the UPSC and How You Can Too.

You can't do without newspapers in an exam like the UPSC. I made the mistake of ignoring and bypassing them in my first attempt, which was a failure. No news analysis can compensate for the newspapers. Newspapers can be read in multiple ways, and in the CSE too, you must read your newspaper in different ways for the three stages.

For the Prelims

The key areas to focus on are facts, data points, terms (especially for economics) and the static background behind the current news. You need to explore these points in detail. Say you read an article that mentions a particular tribal movement from the period of the freedom struggle. Newspapers might not elaborate on it, but it becomes your duty to explore it further and prepare all the relevant questions that could be framed out of that topic for the Prelims. If it's covered in the daily news analysis you follow, well and good. Otherwise, make sure to google it further, and make a small note. In a newspaper what is relevant and what is not is a question that troubles many candidates. The only way out of this dilemma is to look at the questions from the previous years, which give you an idea about the frequently asked topics and how in-depth your preparation should be. Also, for the Prelims, anything that you study in the static book must be correlated with the current news.

For the Mains

The focus must be on analysing a particular topic from different angles. If there is a topic that can be debated upon, you must understand both sides of the issue thoroughly and form a balanced opinion. The editorial pages are extremely helpful for the Mains. You must analyse every article correlating with the topics in your Mains syllabus and mentally structure answers for questions likely to be asked from the topic.

Whenever I made my notes on different topics from newspapers, I wrote them in an answer format, inserting the data quoted in the newspaper article in the introduction, other points in the body and the suggestions in the conclusion.

This way, I made my work easy for the Mains. A diversity of points becomes very important for this exam. You should not just stick to one angle and keep explaining it, but explain the same topic from different angles -- political, social, environmental, ethical, economic, etc.

The conclusions must always be optimistic and forward looking and show there is good scope for improvement in a given situation.

For the Interview

Newspapers become 80 per cent of your preparation at this stage. For the Prelims and the Mains, I followed only one newspaper. But for the Interview stage, I started reading three newspapers.

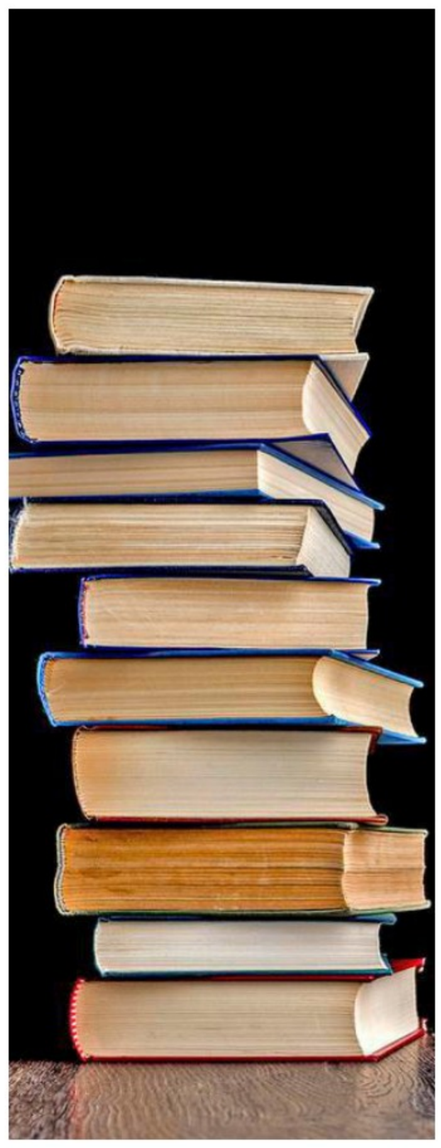
For the Interview, every news in and around your area becomes important. The focus should not be on memorising the facts but on framing your own opinions on every issue. I started watching a few discussions daily on different news channels, like Sansad TV, to understand different opinions, and based on the knowledge I had gained during the preparation, I framed my opinion.

Remember, your opinion and viewpoint must be logical, optimistic and balanced. You can take the backing of the Constitution and the Supreme Court judgments on some controversial issues. At this stage, the newspapers must be followed until the last day, even the news of the day of the Interview becomes crucial.

I developed the habit of newspaper reading in my college days. I would recommend all beginners start with this aspect of preparation first. Make the newspaper your best friend. Initially, it would take me nearly two and a half hours to finish reading the day's papers, so do not worry if you take more time in the early days. Slowly, the time I took reduced to 45 minutes. I got immense help from my father in covering the newspaper portions. I read the newspaper a day late, as my father would mark the essential points every day and the next day, I would read it and focus on the marked items.

I ignored the points I felt were not very relevant. But since my father had also read all my General Studies books, he had a good idea of what was important.

Excerpted with permission from Juggernaut



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Mr. R. K. Aiyah of Madras wants to know the pronunciation of 'Ms'"

"It is pronounced 'miz'. It is used before the names of women who don't want to tell you whether they are married or single. 'Mr' does not tell you whether a man is a bachelor or married. Women also felt that they should have a title like 'Mr.' without distinction between married and unmarried'. Ms is the result. It is of recent origin. Please note that 'Miss' is pronounced 'mis' and Mrs 'misiz'."

"Mr. C. S. Viswanathan of Trivandrum wants to know what 'slang' is."

"You know what standard English is. It is respectable English. It is the kind of English that is spoken and written by educated people. Colloquialisms are those which are used in conversation but they are inappropriate in serious writing and speech. But in conversation and informal writing, they are appropriate. The word 'chap' is colloquial, 'man' is Standard English and 'bloke' slang. Slang is less respectable than colloquialisms. Slang is primarily a spoken language. Slang terms go out of date rapidly. Some become part of Standard English. Words like queer, bus, mob, skyscraper, taxi, humbug were once slang terms. The following are some interesting slang expressions.

Airmail – garbage that is thrown out of windows instead of being taken to the dustbin.

Cop jitters – abnormal fear of the police.

Bugle – the nose. You blow your nose and so the nose is a bugle!

Coffin nail – a cigrette.

Iced to the eyebrows – totally drunk.

'Slang' has no plural form. That is, you don't say 'slangs'. Instead you refer to slang terms, slang expressions or slang words."

"Mr. K. M. Isiah of Guntur wants to know which of the two is correct: once for all or once and for all."

"Both are correct. They mean 'finally', 'decisively', 'conclusively'.

I am telling you once for all that I have no interest in politics."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

In the NBA, this week, Cleveland Cavaliers guard Donovan Mitchell scored 71 points in a single game against the Chicago Bulls, a Cavaliers record. Here's a quiz on some records that have stood for a long time

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

Name the English bowler who got Don Bradman out for a duck in his last inning, preventing the Don from getting a career average of 100 in 52 Tests by a whisker — he finished with 99.94, which is still nearly 40 runs higher than the next best batting average for cricketers who have batted in at least 20 innings.

QUESTION 2

For which athletic event does Jarmila Kratochvílová hold the longest standing world record in athletics?

QUESTION 3

On her death on September 8, 2022, Queen Elizabeth II had completed the second longest reign among monarchs — 25,782 days. Who holds the record for the longest reign — 26,407 days?

QUESTION 4

Among females who were elected to power, which leader holds the record for the longest tenure (16 years and 16 days)?

QUESTION 5

The current Chief Justice of India, Justice DY Chandrachud is set to serve for 732 days (two years and two days) — among the longest tenures for recent CJIs — till his retirement in November 2024. This would still be the 14th longest tenure. Who holds the record (2,696 days)?

THE LONDON GAZETTE.
Published by Authority.
From Monday, Septemb 3. to Monday, Septemp 10, 1666.
Whitehall, Sept. 8.
THE ordinary course of this paper having been interrupted by a sad and lamentable accident of Fire lately happed in the City of London: it hath been thought fit for satisfying the minds of so many of His Majesties good Subjects who must needs be concerned for the losse of so great an accident, to give this short, but true Account of it.
On the second instant, at one of the clock in the Morning, there happed to break out, a sad and deplorable Fire in Pudding-lane, near New Fish-street, which falling out at that hour of the night, and in a quarter of the Town so close built with wooden pitched houses spread itself so far before day, and with such distraction to the Inhabitants and Neighbours, that care was not taken for the timely prevent ing the further diffusion of it, by pulling down houses, as ought to have been; so that this lamentable Fire in a short time became too big to be mastred by any Engines or working near it. It fell out most unhappily too, That a violent Easterly wind fomented it, and kept it burning all that day, and the night following spreading itself up to Grace-church-street and downwards from Cornhil-east to the Water-side, as far as the Three Cranes in the Vintry.
The people in all parts about it, distracted by the vastness of it, and their particular care to carry away their Goods, many attempts were made to prevent the spreading of it by pulling down Houses, and making great Intervals, but all in vain, the Fire seizing upon the Timber and Rubbish, and so continuing it self even through those spaces, and raging in a bright flame all Monday and Tuesday, not withstanding His Majesties own, and His Royal Highness's indefatigable and personal pains to apply all possible remedies to prevent it, calling upon and helping the people with their Hands; Church, next Holborn-bridge, Pie-corner, Aldersgate, Cripplegate, near the lower end of Coleman-street, at the end of Basin-hall-street by the Postern at the upper end of Bishopsgate-street and Leadenhall-street, at the Standard in Cornhill at the church in Fenchurch street, near Clothworkers Hall in Mincing-lane, at the middle of Mark-lane, and at the Tower-dock.
On Thursday by the blessing of God it was wholly beat down and extinguished. But so as that Evening it unhappily burst out again a fresh at the Temple, by the failing of some sparks (as is supposed) upon a Pile of Wooden buildings; but his Royal Highness who watched there that whole night in Person, by the great blessing and diligence used, and especially by applying Powder to blow up the Houses about it, before day most happily mastred it.
Divers Strangers, Dutch and French were, during the fire, apprehended, upon suspicion that they contributed mischievously to it, who are all imprisoned, and Informations prepared to make a severe inquisition here upon by my Lord Chief Justice Keeling, assisted by some of the Lords of the Privy Council; and some principal Members of the City, notwithstanding which suspicion, the manner of the burning all along in a Train, and so blowen forwards in all its way by strong Winds, make us conclude the whole was an effect of an unhappy chance, or to speak better, the heavy hand of God upon us for our sins, showing us the terrour of his Judgement in thus raising the Fire, and immediately after his miraculous and never to be acknowledged Mercy, in putting a stop to it when we were in the last despair, and that all attempts for quenching it however industriously pursued seemed insufficient. His Majesty doth not hourly in Council, and every where hath continued making rounds about the City in all parts of it where the danger and mischief was greatest, till this morning that he hath sent his Grace the Duke

Visual question:
What is the claim to fame of this paper in the image? WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This 678.9 metre tall skyscraper's name loosely translates to 'independence' in English. **Ans: Merdeka 118 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
2. This was the world's tallest structure at 646.38 metres from 1974 until its collapse in 1991. **Ans: Warsaw radio mast**
3. The Ostankino Tower was built to mark this special event. **Ans: It was built to mark the 50th anniversary of the October Revolution. The athlete Christian Riedl made it to the top in 9 minutes and 51 seconds in the 2018 race**
4. This tower opened in 1973 and held the title of the world's tallest building for 25 years. **Ans: Willis Tower in Chicago, U.S.**
5. This is the world's third-tallest building by height. This has the world's highest observation deck within a building and this building is the tallest of the world's first triple-adjacent supertall buildings. **Ans: Shanghai Tower, Jin Mao Tower, Shanghai World Financial Center**
Visual question: Identify this structure and the aquarium inside it. **Ans: Tokyo Skytree and Sumida Aquarium**
Early Birds: C. Saravanan| Sowmya. P| Niharika P. V.| K. N. Viswanathan| Akshita Gahlot

Word of the day

Ingrate:
a person who shows no gratitude (a noun)

Synonyms: thankless individual, ungrateful person

Usage: *He is an ingrate who never stops complaining about what he does not have.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/ingratepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈɪngreɪt,ɪnˈgreɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JAN. 05		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:07
RISE	16:47	SET 05:16
FRIDAY, JAN. 06		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:07
RISE	17:39	SET 06:08
SATURDAY, JAN. 07		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:08
RISE	18:31	SET 06:59

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	31	15
Bengaluru	26	17

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable and humid..Night will be cool with haze.

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New logo of KSMCA launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday launched the new logo of the Karnataka State Marketing Communication and Advertising Limited (KSMCA) to mark the 50th anniversary of the organisation.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that it was a matter of pride that a government-run agency had not only completed 50 years, but was competing effectively with private agencies. That the KSMCA is able to retain its identity despite the changing market scenario is commendable, post-liberalisation, he added.

Water adalat today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board will hold water adalat on Thursday from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in various parts across the city.

It will be held at: East-1, East 2-1, South East-1, South East -4, West 1-1, West-2-1, North West 1, North West 3, Central 1-1, North East 1, and North 1-1.

THE HINDU
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Construction sector in State hit by stone crushers' strike

With available stocks being used up over the past week since the strike began, there is severe shortage of jelly stones and M-sand and materials from Tamil Nadu have begun trickling in and are being traded at a higher price in black

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stone crushing units across the State have been on an indefinite strike from December 21. K. MURALI KUMAR

Stone crushing units across the State, over 2,000 of them, have been on an indefinite strike over a litany of complaints from December 21, and that has severely hit the construction sector in Karnataka.

With all available stocks already being used up over the past week since the strike began, now there is a severe shortage of jelly stones and M-sand in the State, affecting civil works.

"The State government should resolve the impasse and ensure the units are resumed immediately. Many civil works have already begun coming to a halt due to non-availability of these key resources," said R. Ambikapathy, vice-president, Karnataka State Contractors' Association.

Due to the non-availability of these resources in the State, materials from Tamil Nadu have begun trickling in, into the city mainly, and are being traded at a higher price in black, a senior contractor said.

"A tonne of jelly stones cost ₹800 two weeks ago. Now it has gone up to over ₹1,200 in the black market. But even if one is ready to pay up extra, it is a herculean task to get a load of jelly stones in Bengaluru today," the contractor said.

Mr. Ambikapathy said that while individuals building construction projects, who are in a hurry to complete works or emergency works, may be ready to pay extra, none of the contractors who consume nearly 80% of the output of the State's crushers are ready to do so.

Meanwhile, Federation of Karnataka Quarry and Stone Crusher Owners' Association, addressed pressmen in the city on Wednesday, and said the government was largely unresponsive to their issues.

"There is no question of calling off the strike before our issues are addressed. The indefinite strike will continue," said Krian Jain, vice-president of the association.

One of the key demands of the association is that the government must stall the implementation of the October 28, 2022 GO, that orders a drone survey of mines across the State to bring in strong regulation, till suitable amendments are brought to the Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1994.

"For instance, the government collects royalty from both stone crushers and contractors. The industry is fast becoming unviable due to unfriendly rules and enforcement that has essentially turned into harassment," said Mr. Jain. The association is hopeful that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will personally meet them over the next few days.

From Page One

Notification on service charge for aggregator autorickshaws stayed

As the government had not only issued the notification by exercising its power under Section 67 of the MV Act to control road transport, but also justified such an action, the court said that prima facie the scheme and operation of Section 67 were entirely different, and the State government was required to consider the issue of aggregators as per provisions amended in 2019, giving recognition in law to the transport aggregators.

The State government, the court said, while issuing the notification, was required to take into consideration the 2020 guidelines, which have dealt with the entire gamut of the operations of transport aggregators, including the regulation of fares.

The court adjourned hearing on the petitions till January 12.

Even though the government had notified the service charge on November 25, it was not enforced in view of the pendency of the earlier petitions, filed by the aggregators, in which they had questioned the government's authority of asking them to stop offering autorickshaw services.

The court, in those petitions, in October 2022, passed an interim order permitting them to charge 10% as the service charge plus applicable GST on the base fare fixed by the government for autorickshaws in Bengaluru city. The aggregators are continuing to levy service charge at 10% plus GST since then and those petitions are also pending adjudication.

Text & Context
A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (January 5, Thursday), the following explainer is available:

- Jallikattu: cultural practice or cruelty?
bit.ly/jallikattubanjudgment

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Two leopards 'spotted' on CFTRI campus in Mysuru

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

The 'sighting' of two leopards on the campus of CSIR-CFTRI in the heart of Mysuru city in the early hours of Wednesday triggered panic, even as a holiday was declared for the CFTRI School located on the campus as a precautionary measure.

A CFTRI security person claimed to have spotted the animals around 1.30 a.m. during night rounds. On seeing the wild cats found strolling on the road between the CFTRI School and a nearby building, the security guard alerted the CFTRI authorities, who informed the Forest Department and the police.

Deputy Commissioner K.V. Rajendra, Deputy Conservator of Forest Mahesh Kumar, and police officers rushed to the campus. Measures have been taken for trapping the two cats.

Mr Mahesh Kumar told *The Hindu* that cages and six camera traps have been deployed. The forest personnel carried out combing operations but found no pug marks in and around the spot where the leopards were sighted. "The security person said that he saw two leopards on the road."

The number of camera traps will go up by 20 on Thursday and a team will be camping inside the campus in the wake of the sighting. "Prima facie it seems that the guard has sighted the animals. His narration appeared that he saw the wild cats. Until we get some evidence about his claim, certain precautions need to be taken and the same have been communicated to the staff," the DCF said.

The CFTRI security personnel have been asked not to carry out night rounds alone and remain in a group or at least in pairs, especially near the abandoned buildings and unattended land.

BBMP mulls opening health and wellness centres in various parts of city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The wellness centres will promote meditation, yoga, and all kinds of activities pertaining to integrated health and the wellbeing of the community. REUTERS

After opening Namma Clinics similar to primary health centers, now the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is mulling opening health and wellness centres in various parts of the city.

According to BBMP officials, the wellness centres will promote meditation, yoga, and all kinds of activities pertaining to integrated health and the wellbeing of the community.

"Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs) will be set up under the Ayushman Bharat programme by the Central government. The primary focus will be on wellness and the delivery of an expanded range of services closer to the community. A medical officer, a staff nurse, and two support staff will be working in the HWCs," a senior official from BBMP said.

"The centres will have facilities such as e-Sanjeevani platform, online outpatient consultation service through telemedicine, and teleconsultation.," official added.

The BBMP is looking to set up the HWCs in various places and looking for the land where the centres can be set up. Official said that most of this centres will be close to PHC and Namma Clinics. Of the 438 Namma Clinics planned, the State government launched 114 clinics on December 14.

The plan is to open 100 of the 243 clinics being set up in Bengaluru in the first week of January and the remaining by the end of January.

In July this year, as promised in the State Budget, the State Cabinet approved the establishment of 438 Namma Clinics across urban local bodies, including Bengaluru City Corporation wards, of the State.

Police track down 'missing' woman and two minor girls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A video clip uploaded on Instagram helped the Bandepalya police trace a 20-year-old woman, along with two minor girls, who ran away from home to go to Nepal.

A probe revealed that one of the girls had come along with her elder sister to the city from Nepal and started missing home. The elder sister decided to drop her home and boarded the train without informing her husband and family.

A minor girl from the neighboring house decided to join them for the trip, the police said.

The incident came to light when Joshna Roopchand, from Somasundarpalya in Bandepalya, found that his 12-year-old daughter did not return from school on December 27 and was missing.

When the family members started searching for her, they found that two others, including a 20-year-old woman and her younger sister, were also missing.

While both families searched frantically, one of them found a video clip uploaded on Instagram mentioning Bengaluru to Nepal.

The family approached the police the next day and the Bandepalya police who took up a missing person case.

They analysed the video and concluded that they boarded a Delhi-bound train.

State hopes to get new players for 108 ambulances and govt. dialysis units

WISH LIST 2023

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

New tenders for the 108 Arogya Kavacha ambulance service have been on the back burner since 2018. FILE PHOTO

The year 2023 began on a note of caution as another sub-variant of Omicron emerged in some countries. The health system that began breathing easy in the second half of 2022 when the pandemic started waning, is now again on alert. The global surge has provoked authorities to check preparedness in terms of availability of medical facilities in hospitals, isolation wards, beds, oxygen facilities, and capacity of beds equipped with ventilator supports.

Public health experts are now asserting strengthening the surveillance system for monitoring emergence of new pathogens.

In December, the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) had recommended setting up a Centre for Pandemic Preparedness (CPP) to help predict and prevent future outbreaks through stringent surveillance.

TAC Chairman M.K. Sudarshan told *The Hindu* that lessons from the previous epidemics and pandemics should be invested in the CPP.

"The centre should be able to forecast pandemics and alert the government about any new pandemic based on surveillance instead of attending to the needs as and when required. The CPP should also ensure preparedness for successful response in terms of skilled and adequate manpower, equipment, facilities, and communication, among other aspects. This should be a part of the State's Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) from this year itself," he said.

TAC member V. Ravi, who heads the State's genomic surveillance committee, said the surveillance should be focused on severe acute respiratory infection (SARI), which is now driven by Influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19.

"SARI surveillance should be targeted to pick up the emergence of new variants and new causes of SARI. It will also help in knowing what is driving hospital admissions. Besides, genome sequencing should be made more efficient," he said.

The TAC has also recommended that the State formulate a vaccine policy on the lines of that of the Kerala government. Experts said this should be done this year itself.

108 ambulances
New tenders for the 108 Arogya Kavacha ambulance service have been on the back-burner since 2018. In September last year, ambulance services in the State were hit due to a technical glitch. Public health experts said the State badly needs a high-tech ambulance service.

Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar said tenders for the essential service are being finalised and a new vendor with enhanced services will be in place soon. The new service will have the latest technical features and will be a model in the entire country, he said.

State-run dialysis units
Over 4,000 renal patients undergoing dialysis in 169 government-run dialysis centres across the State since March 2017 are hoping for better services at least this year.

As of now, several dialysis machines in these centres are either dysfunctional or have not been serviced causing severe hardship to patients. Besides, they are forced to buy expensive injections and other medicine due to inadequate supply by the service provider.

In 2017, the dialysis scheme was awarded to BRS Health & Research Institute. In July 2021, when this service provider intimated the State government that it would no longer be able to continue with the services, the scheme was managed by the Health Department under the National Health Mission (NHM) from August 2021 till January 10, 2022.

Subsequently, the contract of the scheme was awarded to Kolkata-based ESKAG Sanjeevini Pvt. Ltd. Although the company's contract ended in March, the State is yet to float a new tender.

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

INBRIEF

Ministers seek apology from ex-CM for 'puppy' remark

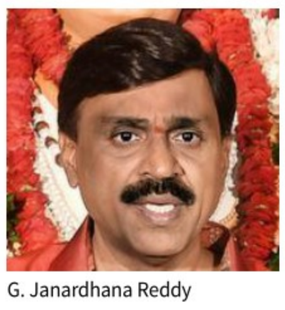
Several Ministers of the Basavaraj Bommai-led government on Wednesday lashed out at Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah who said that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai was like "a puppy before Prime Minister Narendra Modi" for his alleged failure to bring ₹5,495 crore into the State's kitty as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.

Home Minister Araga Jnanedra said the Congress leader's remark was "beneath his position" and had insulted the Chief Minister's office. Minister for Industries Murugesh Nirani said the Chief Minister's post is a Constitutional one and all people have to respect it. Remarks made by Mr. Siddaramaiah, "who stands with folded hands before Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi", were in poor taste, he argued. Several other Ministers too joined in the chorus demanding an apology.

CBI moves HC over delay in nod to attach Reddy's properties

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday moved the High Court of Karnataka seeking a direction to the Karnataka government to expeditiously consider its plea – pending since August, 2022 – for grant of approval to move the special court in Bengaluru for attaching certain additional properties belonging to former Minister G. Janardhana Reddy, who is the prime accused in an illegal mining case.


G. Janardhana Reddy

In its petition, the CBI has said that it had submitted a representation to the State Chief Secretary way back on August 30, 2022, seeking approval under the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944, to move the Special Court for attaching the identified additional properties acquired by Mr. Reddy in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States.

'Govt. failed to act'

Mr. Reddy is making "hectic efforts" to sell these properties, estimated value of which is around ₹19.14 crore, the CBI has claimed, while complaining that the Karnataka government has failed to act on its representation. The CBI also said that it has requested authorities in Telangana not to register documents of such properties.

It has been pointed out in the CBI's petition that it had filed charge sheet in 2013 against Mr. Reddy for allegedly causing a loss of ₹198 crore to the Karnataka exchequer by carrying out illegal mining and transport of iron ore through his companies, Obulapuram Mining Company Ltd. and Associated Mining Company Ltd., after conducting investigation on the directions of the apex court.

The CBI has stated that it had filed similar representation to the Karnataka government in 2015 to seek attachment of his properties, estimated value of which was then around ₹65.05 crore. After the government granted approval in June 2016, the CBI in July 2015 filed an application before the Special Court in Bengaluru seeking attachment of those properties.

However, the CBI pointed out that the application filed in 2015 was kept pending before the Special Court, before which the trial is pending against Mr. Reddy and other accused. After repeated reminders, the Special Court on March 29, 2022, passed an order asking Mr. Reddy to adduce his evidence on CBI's application for attachment of properties.

Stating that the CBI had continued its effort to trace more properties of Mr. Reddy and his family, it has been pointed out in the petition that the agency has now identified around 200 additional properties owned by him and his family members in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and hence, filed representation before the Karnataka government in August last year seeking approval to move the Special Court for attachment of these properties.

Kalasa-Banduri project: Goa starts campaign against CWC clearance

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Environment action groups in Goa have started a letter writing campaign against the Mahadayi river water project, while the government of Goa has opposed the Union government's approval to the revised Detailed Project Report (DPR).

This comes days after the Centre accepted the DPR for implementation of the decades-old Kalasa-Banduri drinking water project in the inter-State Mahadayi river basin. The Central Water Commission (CWC) approved the DPR, subject to other mandatory approvals.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant called an all-party meeting of leaders to discuss the issue and lead a delegation to the Centre asking it to withdraw the approval on Wednesday.

Goa CM calls all-party meeting to discuss the issue and lead a delegation to the Centre asking it to withdraw the approval

The argument of the environmentalists is that the project would damage the environment irreversibly. "The river is the lifeline of the Western Ghats. If water is diverted away from the river, it will not only affect the forests and wildlife, but also the fish in the river. The reduced inflow in the river affects the drainage of the river into the sea. That affects the fragile ecosystem of the estuary. That will directly affect Goa's economy, as most of the poor depend on the fisheries industry for survival," Vithal Shelke, an activist, argued.

Activists including Amrit Dias, Prakash Singh and Savio D'Souza are planning to write to the President and Prime Minister to stop this project. Mr. D'Souza said that NGO members are doing door-to-door visits to tell the residents of Goa of the dangers of the project. Mr. Dias said the Centre's approval was conditional and the letter from New Delhi should not be taken as a green signal to Karnataka government to start work on the project.

The Belagavi Kannada organisations condemned the decision of the Goa government to lead a delegation to the Centre. Ashok Chandaragi, president of the action committee of Kannada organisations, said, "We have high hopes on Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. After all, he led a 250-km padayatra for the Kalasa-Banduri Nala scheme in 2004."

BSY's absence at Amit Shah's events triggers speculation on attempts to sideline him, son

Over the last two days, Vijayendra had to deny reports that the former CM will support the newly formed party of Janardhana Reddy even as HDK tried to woo Veerashaiva-Lingayats in Mysuru citing the 'sidelining' of Yediyurappa

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa was conspicuous by his absence during the recent visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Karnataka.

Though Mr. Shah said the former Chief Minister was on a pre-scheduled trip abroad, this comes just weeks after BJP national president J.P. Nadda had to intervene to ensure his presence at a convention in Koppal, triggering speculation of attempts to "sideline" Mr. Yediyurappa and the latter's resentment about the same.

BJP national president J.P. Nadda had to recently intervene to ensure B.S. Yediyurappa's presence at a convention in Koppal.
FILE PHOTO

A section in the party believes the relationship between the former Chief Minister and the State leadership has deteriorated. Over the last two days, his son B.Y. Vijayendra had to deny speculation that the former Chief Minister will likely support the newly formed party of G. Janardhana Reddy, even as Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy tried to woo Veerashaiva-Lingayats in Mysuru citing the 'sidelining' of Mr. Yediyurappa.

"There is an apparent attempt by the State leadership of the party, both in the organisation and the government, to sideline Mr. Yediyurappa and Mr. Vijayendra," said a leader close to Mr. Yediyurappa.

Vijayendra not invited

For instance, Mr. Vijayendra was either not invited or made to feel unwelcome at multiple Jana Spandana conventions in Chamarajanagar and Koppal districts. "Mr. Vijayendra has offered to contest against former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Varuna and has in the past spearheaded two key bypoll campaigns in K.R. Pet and Sira seats in Old Mysore Region, which were won by the BJP for the first time, but was not invited to the strategy meeting for the region chaired by Mr. Shah," said a strategist close to Mr. Vijayendra.

Mr. Yediyurappa's faction is reportedly miffed and is expecting the central leadership to set the house in order in the State unit. "The actions of the high command – making Mr. Yediyurappa a member of both central parliamentary board and election committee of the party – show that they have realised that he is key to the party's prospects in the upcoming 2023 Assembly and 2024 Parliamentary elections. But the State unit seems to be working at cross purposes," contended a senior leader and Member of Parliament. The faction is reading Mr. Shah's statement that the elections will be fought under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a sign of things to come, setting off speculation of an overhaul in the State unit.

Other sources in the party ruled out a major overhaul and said even talks of change of the party chief had died down.

"The party has fought all elections under the leadership of Mr. Modi across Karnataka. There is no need to read too much into Mr. Shah's rhetorical statement," said a senior Minister who denied that Mr. Yediyurappa was being sidelined.

"Mr. Yediyurappa has been our tallest leader, and there is no question of him being sidelined. That will be suicidal," he said while denying reports of relations between the former and the incumbent Chief Minister being frosty. He cited Mr. Bommai's statement at the Koppal meet that they enjoyed a "father-son relationship".

Board studies exam system of other States to improve II PU results

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has submitted a report to the government based on a study of the examination systems prevailing in other States with a view to improve the II PU results in the State. This is part of the effort by KSEAB to achieve 70% pass percentage in the March 2023 examination. The pass percentage in 2022 was just short of 62%.

The board members visited Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Delhi to study the class 12 curriculum, examination pattern, examination system and other details before submitting a report to the Karnataka government for further action.

In the history of pre-university education, the result of II PU has never gone beyond 62% in Karnataka. In 2022, the State got 61.88%, which is the highest pass percentage ever.

Now, the II PU examination is conducted by KSEAB (earlier Pre-University Education Board), which has decided to improve the results. Hence, the study of class 12 examination systems in other States.

Earlier, the PUE Board had undertaken a project to identify students who need help and assist them in obtaining at least minimum passing marks. Conducting Multiple Choice Question (MCQ)-based examination for II PU students is also under discussion in the department.

H.N. Gopalakrishna, Director (Examination) for KSEAB, told *The Hindu*, "To improve the II PU result in the State, we conducted a study of the examination system in the southern States and CBSE-Delhi, and submitted the report to the State government. We made many proposals to the improve the result and are awaiting the government's decision."

Karnataka's GST collection crosses ₹10,000 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka's monthly goods and services tax (GST) collection has crossed ₹10,000 crore for three months in a row, just behind Maharashtra.

The actual GST collection was ₹10,061 crore in December 2022.

"The positive growth proves we are on the trajectory of good growth and well past the negative impact of the COVID-induced slowdown. Proud to be boosting national economy," Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai tweeted. Maharashtra's GST collection recorded at ₹23,598 crore in December 2022.

BJP MP seeks support for crafts village

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lahar Singh Siroya, BJP MP, on Thursday called on Congress president D.K. Shivakumar and Bengaluru Rural MP D.K. Suresh to take ahead the idea of establishing a crafts village on the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway to protect artisans of Channapatna toys.

The MP said the crafts village will protect the Channapatna toy industry and local eateries selling iconic cuisines, which will be affected once the expressway becomes operational. Both leaders assured their support to the idea.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

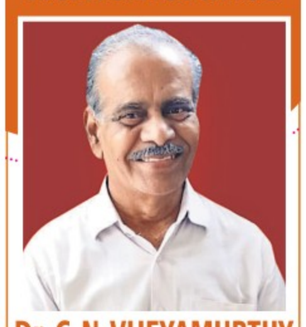
DEATH

SAD DEMISE

Mrs. K Kamakshi
(W/o Late Kuppuswami)
Passed away on Wednesday, 4.1.2023. The last rites will take place on Thursday (5 January 2023) between 12-2 PM at her residence in Mandaveli, Chennai
Deeply Mourned by:
Anu Ramesh (daughter), Ved K Ramesh (son-in-law), Annjana and Arvind (grandchildren), family and friends.
Ph:+919444067559 /+919840082710

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Birthday Remembrance



Dr. C. N. VIJEYAMURTHY
MBA, MS, Ph.D
You left us too soon but we cling on to each moment spent with you. Missing you and your smile every day.
Family, Relatives and Friends.

Executive Engineer, Public Works, Department, Kolar Division, Kolar-563101.
Phone: 08152-222022, Fax: 08152-227443
e-Mail: eepwdkolar07@gmail.com website: www.kpwd.gov.in
e-portal: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

e-Tender Notification-K.W. -4
Short-Term Re-Tender notification No.35/2022-23 dt: 31.12.2022 (3rd CALL)

Re-tender is invited through e-Procurement for the road work in the limits of Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District Public Works Department from the Registered Contractors under **H/A:5054-MDR improvements.** Amount put to tender: **Rs.278.18 Lakhs.** EMD Amount: **Rs.4.18 Lakhs.** Period for completion of work: **9 months.**

Contractors may download the tender documents KW-4 from Karnataka State e-Procurement portal **(viz., htpp://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).** Filled in tenders shall be uploaded on or before: **4.00 p.m. on 11.01.2023** through Karnataka State e-Procurement portal. Tender received will be opened after: **4.30 p.m. on 12.01.2023** in e-Procurement. Further details regarding the works and also for details about this tender notification please contact e-Procurement portal and also you may contact this office during working hours. **Note: Any changes in this Notification will be published in e-portal only.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Kolar.
DIPR/Kolar/R.O.No.458/MC&A/2022-23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
H.D.C.No.B2/8722/2022 **e-TENDER NOTICE** Dt.30.12.2022
e-Tender is invited for the following work as per details furnished below
Providing Human Resource 136 Data Entry Operators to the Public Health Department, Greater Chennai Corporation for One year on contract basis.

Value of work Rs. **3,11,01,024/-**	EMD amount **Rs.3,11,010/-**
Tender date and Time **02.02.2023** up to **3.00 P.M.**	
Tender open date and Time **03.02.2023 3.30 P.M.**	

DIPR/ 119 /TENDER/2023 **City Health Officer**
" சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

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Tender No: TACTV/Tender/004/2022 dated 4.1.2023

Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation (TACTV) invites sealed Tenders from Companies for supply of High Definition (HD) Digital Cable TV Set Top Boxes and Digital services to TACTV by providing rights of advertising and consequential revenue at Landing page of TACTV for a period of three years. The details of the Tender will be available at **www.tactv.in** and **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** from 5-1-2023 onwards. The Tender documents can be downloaded free of cost from these websites. The last date for submission of Tender is 27-1-2023.

DIPR/117/TENDER/2023 **Managing Director**
சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்

Talacauvery is South India's top 'star party' destination

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Talacauvery in Kodagu district of Karnataka, which is the source of the Cauvery river, has emerged as South India's Hanle, as astronomers have been hosting "star parties" there for some time now.

Hanle, located in Ladakh, and known for its pristine skies and minimal light pollution, is also India's first Dark Sky Reserve.

A Dark Sky Reserve is a designation given to a place that has policies in place to ensure that a tract of land or region has minimal artificial light interference.

In South India, most dark sky locations are in the Western Ghats or some hill ranges nearby, and according to astronomers, Talacauvery is the most ideal location to gaze at the sky and have a star party.

Voluntary work

The Bangalore Astronomical Society (BAS), a group of volunteers working for the promotion of astronomy as a hobby as well as science, is now hosting star parties at Talacauvery. IT professionals Sudhash Natarajan, Vishwanath S.K. and Keerthi Kiran have been volunteering to conduct star parties for BAS.

"We at BAS usually arrange star parties on New Moon weekends (Friday-Saturday-Sunday) format as it is the ideal time to observe the celestial objects which we are looking for. We inform people who are interested in joining us for the star party eight to 10 days in advance. Members of the sky party after arriving at the dark sky location set up their equipment like telescopes, binacolours, etc, and the observation goes on until 4.45 am," said Sudhash Natarajan.

Ideal spot: A star party organised by the Bangalore Astronomical Society recently at Talacauvery in Kodagu district of Karnataka.

Mr. Natarajan said that the group which attends the star parties are of all walks of life and that they are a mix of experienced astronomers as well as students and newbies to astronomy.

He added that star parties have also been conducted in Koratagere, Hoshalli, Kavalur and Yercaud in the past.

Less light pollution

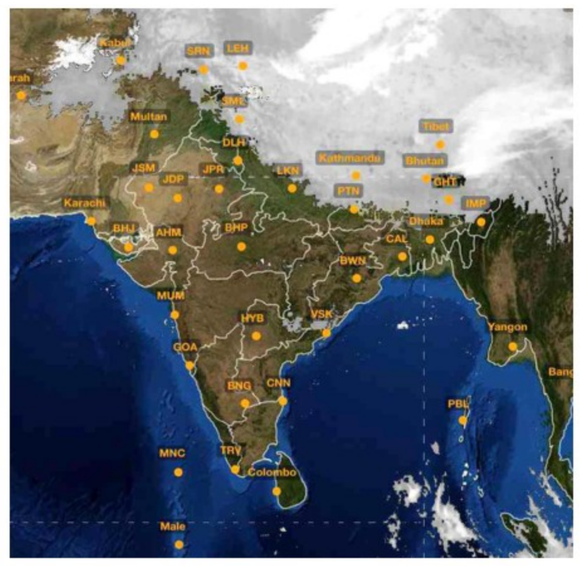
"However, Talacauvery is possibly the best dark night location in South India due to less light pollution. In astronomy, there is something called the Bortle scale which measures the night sky's brightness of a location on a nine level numerical scale. The lesser the numerical scale, it qualifies for a better dark sky location. For example, Hanle skies would qualify as Bortle one skies, Talacauvery as Bortle two, and Bengaluru as Bortle nine," he added.

The star parties are usually conducted in the winter months between December and March as the skies are clearer during these months which is very important for stargazing.

Mr. Natarajan said the next star party will be organised between January 20 and 24 this year.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Cold wave/severe cold wave conditions likely in some/isolated pockets over Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Bihar, Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	19.4	13.8	Kozhikode	—	33.6	23.0
Ahmedabad	—	24.1	12.1	Kurnool	—	31.3	19.6
Aizawl	—	—	6.9	Lucknow	—	12.0	7.3
Allahabad	—	19.1	10.8	Madurai	—	32.2	20.2
Bengaluru	—	26.3	16.8	Mangaluru	—	33.3	21.5
Bhopal	—	17.9	7.4	Mumbai	—	30.2	16.4
Bhubaneswar	—	27.6	16.8	Mysuru	—	29.9	15.4
Chandigarh	—	14.0	7.3	New Delhi	—	16.5	4.4
Chennai	—	30.0	22.9	Patna	—	13.4	11.2
Coimbatore	—	30.0	19.5	Port Blair	—	30.2	26.3
Dehradun	—	22.2	4.5	Puducherry	—	31.0	20.8
Gangtok	—	13.6	5.4	Pune	—	29.3	16.3
Goa	—	33.0	22.5	Raipur	0.4	27.8	17.0
Guwahati	—	25.5	—	Ranchi	—	21.2	10.2
Hubballi	—	31.0	17.0	Shillong	—	16.1	5.9
Hyderabad	—	28.8	20.0	Shimla	—	13.3	2.2
Imphal	—	23.3	5.4	Srinagar	—	10.3	-5.2
Jaipur	—	20.8	4.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.4	21.5
Kochi	—	31.4	23.0	Tiruchi	—	30.5	21.4
Kohima	—	16.8	5.6	Vijayawada	—	29.8	20.4
Kolkata	—	21.5	13.6	Visakhapatnam	0.5	28.6	24.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.41	..74	.63	...109	...110	
Bengaluru	.10	..38	.22	...120	...111	
Chennai	.21	..54	.35	...179	...119	
Delhi	.19	..88	103	...387	...331	
Hyderabad	.12	9	.14	...130	81	
Kolkata	.11	..25	.39	...252	...144	
Lucknow	.14	..20	.99	...261	...166	
Mumbai	.76	..84	...9	...306	...166	
Pune	..—	..—	..—	.....—	.....—	.....—
Visakhapatnam	.12	..37	.50	.....—	...118	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 368 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 34

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

20 TDP cadres injured in police lathi-charge

The Hindu Bureau
CHITTOOR

About 20 workers of the Telugu Desam Party were injured in a mild police lathi-charge at Pedduru village of Shantipuram mandal in the Kuppam Assembly Constituency of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday.

Tension prevailed all over the Kuppam Assembly Constituency after the police, who were enforcing the G.O No. 1 norms, tried to prevent Telugu Desam Party workers who were proceeding towards the Kuppam-Karnataka border to welcome the party chief N. Chandrababu Naidu.

As part of Mr. Naidu's three-day visit to Kuppam to conduct the *'Idhemi Karma'* programme, a pandal was erected at Pedduru village, meant for Mr. Naidu's proposed *Rachcha Banda* programme.

With Mr. Naidu's arrival expected at the border village in the afternoon from Bengaluru, about 500 police personnel were deployed at the venue, and the latter had erected barricades to prevent the party activists.

Some party workers tried to remove a barricade, which led to an altercation with the police.

Saji Cherian sworn in as Minister in Kerala Cabinet

After a brief hiatus, the CPI(M) legislator has been reinducted in Pinarayi's Cabinet; Opposition United Democratic Front led by the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party boycott the function

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After a hiatus of around six months, CPI(M) legislator Saji Cherian was again sworn in as Minister in the second Left Democratic Front (LDF) government here on Wednesday.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan administered the oath of office to Mr. Cherian at a function held at Raj Bhavan in the afternoon which was attended by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his Cabinet colleagues, party leaders, officials, and others. The Opposition United Democratic Front led by the Congress and the BJP boycotted the function in protest against the reinduction of Mr. Cherian into the Cabinet.

Second innings: Saji Cherian being sworn in as Minister by Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan. CM Pinarayi Vijayan is also seen.

Mr. Cherian was constrained to step down as Fisheries and Culture Minister in July following his alleged controversial remarks on the Constitution which put the State government in the dock.

The local police which probed the case against him first closed it citing there was no merit in the case. Subsequently, the Kerala High Court also dismissed a plea seeking his disqualification as an MLA ruling that there was insufficient ground to disqualify him as a legislator.

This paved the way for his reinduction into the Cabinet.

Silent Valley bird species' number goes up to 175

The Hindu Bureau
PALAKKAD

A bird survey conducted at the Silent Valley National Park in Kerala in the last week of December identified 141 species, of which 17 were new. So far, 175 species of birds have been spotted in Silent Valley.

The survey held on December 27, 28 and 29 marked the 30th anniversary of the first bird survey in Silent Valley. Although the first survey was held in the last week of December 1990, the anniversary could not be celebrated in 2020 December because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Veteran birders such as P.K. Uthaman and C. Sushant were the only members in the 7th survey team who had attended the first survey held in 1990.

Visual treat: (from left) Grey-headed canary-flycatcher, Nilgiri flowerpecker and Pompadour green pigeon spotted in the Silent Valley National Park in Kerala. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As many as 30 birders and forest staff took part in the bird survey by staying in seven camps inside the core area of the Silent Valley. Wildlife Warden S. Vinod said that another bird survey would soon be held in the buffer zone of the national park.

The survey was held in association with the Kerala Natural History Society.

New species

Brown wood owl, Banded bay cuckoo, Malabar woodshrike, White-throated kingfisher, Indian nightjar, Jungle nightjar, and Large cuckooshrike were among the 17 species newly identified in the Silent Valley. As many as 139 birds had been identified in a survey held in 2006, and the number of species went up to 142 in the last survey held in 2014.

Birds such as Crimson-backed sunbird, Yellow-browed bulbul, Black bulbul, Indian white-eye and Indian swiftlet were found in abundance in Silent Valley. Silent Valley officials said several species endemic to high elevation areas were also identified during the survey. Among the birds they sighted were Nilgiri laughingthrush, Nilgiri flowerpecker, Brown-cheeked fulvetta, Black-and-orange flycatcher, Grey-headed canary-flycatcher, Greenish warbler, Common chiffchaff, Tytler's leaf warbler, Shaheen falcon, Nilgiri wood pigeon, and Malabar whistling thrush.

A bird survey conducted in Kerala in the last week of December identified 141 species, of which 17 are new

Cong. appoints Manikrao as Telangana AICC in-charge

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

In an expected development, the Congress high command has appointed senior Congress leader from Maharashtra Manikrao Thakre as the new AICC in-charge for Telangana replacing Manickam Tagore, who has been made the in-charge for Goa.

Mr. Thakre is a four-time MLA, a two-time MLC and also the former president of Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee. Mr. Thakre also served as a Minister in the Sushil Kumar Shinde Cabinet. He will take charge immediately.

Telangana joins free rice scheme under NFSA

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

After initial hiccups, the Telangana government has decided to join the free rice scheme of the Centre under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

The scheme envisaged supply of five kg of rice per head per month in a family to 54.44 lakh NFSA cardholders in the State. But, the State government will extend the scheme to an additional 35.52 lakh cardholders at its own cost.

HC notice to govt. on plea for rehabilitation of landslip-hit villagers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered the issue of notice to the State government on a public interest litigation petition seeking a direction for rehabilitation and payment of compensation for residents of Kalache village, Yellapur taluk in Uttara Kannada, who were severely affected by landslips that occurred due to heavy rain in 2021.

No compensation

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi, passed the order on the petition filed by Shivaram Gopal Krishna Goankar of Ankola in Uttara Kannada. Though Ministers rushed to the village after landslips occurred and assured villagers of help, compensation has not been paid to the residents so far nor the State government is taking any step to rehabilitate them in safe places. The petitioner has said that the Union government has offered the residents ₹15 lakh as compensation if they were to shift to new location as the entire village is adjoining the Kali tiger reserve and the Centre wants to include the village in the reserve forest area, as the area may face heavy rain in future too.

Cardamom supplied for use at Sabarimala laced with insecticide residue

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The samples of cardamom supplied by the contractor for use at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple contained insecticide residues exceeding the maximum residue limit (MRL) stipulated by the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants Toxins and Residues) Regulations, according to a certificate of examination issued by the Government Analyst's Laboratory at Thiruvananthapuram after examination of samples.

Court directive

The samples were tested as per a directive of a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court. The High Court had directed the executive officer of the TDB at Sabarimala to collect the samples on December 23 in the presence of the Sabarimala Special Commissioner when a writ petition filed by Ayyappa Spices of Idukki challenging the award of the contract of supply of cardamom to Sunil came up for hearing.

The petitioner alleged that the sample given by Mr. Sunil was tested at the laboratory at Pampa which had no facility to identify the pesticide residues.

It was alleged that the same cardamom which found negative results now was found statutory at Pampa.

KARNATAKA SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
"Kaushalya Bhavan" 3rd Floor, Near Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru 560029,
Phone: 080-29522222/29550555
E-mail: eoi_rfp@kaushalkar.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Karnataka Skill Development Corporation (KSDC) is proposing Social Welfare Department's Special Central Assistance (SCA to SCSP) Prime Minister Anusoochith Jaathi Abhyudaya Yojana (PM-AJAY) Scheme for 2021-22 to impart Skill training programme for 2940 SC Youth Candidates in respect of the following Sectors in all Districts of Karnataka given below:

Sectors			Districts
Sl. No	Job Role	Target	
1	As per the job role list available on KSDC website	2940	In all Districts of Karnataka

Karnataka Skill Development Corporation is inviting Expression of Interest from the interested and Accredited Training Partners under Karnataka skill Development Corporation to impart training in the above-mentioned sector with the following terms & conditions:

1. The Training partners in all the districts who are accredited in Karnataka skill Development Corporation.
2. Training Centres will be selected on the basis of Accreditation obtained according to the norms of Karnataka skill Development Corporation.
3. To mandatory and ensure that after the completion of the Training the placement of the trained candidates either in wage employment or in self-employment should be at least 70%.
4. Wide publicity should be given before starting the training programme. Beneficiaries shall be selected by inviting the Application from the eligible beneficiaries.
5. The beneficiaries should compulsorily satisfy the eligibility criteria fixed by the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation to get the benefits of this scheme (like age caste, income etc.,) The Beneficiary must belong to Scheduled castes list of Karnataka. The beneficiary must compulsorily produce SC caste certificate.
6. The accredited Training providers must submit the documents as per the checklist available in the website https://www.kaushalkar.com and submit the hard copy of the documents to this office and e-mail soft copies to eoi_rfp@kaushalkar.com
7. The last date for submission of the documents which are to be submitted is on or before Dated : 10.01.2023 evening 5:30 PM. The documents received after the due date will not be considered.
8. For further Details please visit https://www.kaushalkar.com or contact Telephone No: 080-29522222 / 29550555

Sd/-
Date: 04.01.2023 **Executive Director-2**
Place: Bengaluru DIPR/DDU/3881/AKAR/2021-22 KSDC

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
HIGHER EDUCATION (UE) DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

Government of Andhra Pradesh invites application for the post of Vice Chancellor, **1.** Adikavi Nannayya University, Rajamahendravaram, E.G. District. **2.** Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa, Dr. YSR District. **3.** Sri Padmavathi Mahila Viswavidyalayam, Tirupati (from women candidates only) For other details, please visit **https://apsche.ap.gov.in** Applications with bio-data filled in the prescribed proforma and other requisite documents may be sent within 20 days from the date of issue of notification by registered post to the following address. **The Chairman, A.P. State Council of Higher Education, 4th floor, Neeladri Towers, Sri Ram Nagar, 6th Battalion Road, Atmakur (V), Managalagiri (M), Guntur - 522503.**

Date: 04-01-2023 **J. SYAMALA RAO**
Place: Velagapudi **PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

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Application forms may be downloaded from SAIL websites, www.sail.co.in and https://sailtenders.co.in/. Duly filled in application forms along with the registration fee and required documents may be submitted at the offices as specified in the Instructions to Applicants.

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Contact Email id: ssp.mkthq@sail.in

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Mixed signals

Manufacturing has gained momentum, but inflation still a concern

Recent macro-economic data, including the official Index of Eight Core Industries for November and S&P Global's survey-based Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the manufacturing and services sectors for December, offer mixed signals on the underlying momentum in the economy. The government's provisional data show that output across the core industries, spanning coal to electricity, grew by an average 5.4% year-on-year in November. Double-digit expansions in cement, coal, electricity and steel led the index higher. However, on a sequential basis, contractions in six of the eight sectors, including in the heavyweight sectors of electricity and refinery products, which together represent almost half the index, kept average core output unchanged. While electricity output shrank 2.1% from October, refinery products contracted by 3.1% sequentially. Only production of coal and cement expanded both year-on-year and month-on-month, signalling that non-power demand for coal and construction activity may have begun gaining some traction in the third fiscal quarter. The uptrend in cement is heartening as consumption of the key building material spans the job-intensive housing and infrastructure segments and, if sustained, could help undergird broader economic momentum. The 12.3% year-on-year and 15.1% sequential expansion in coal output is also a positive augury as it indicates an improvement in availability of the fuel to fire captive power plants and furnaces in the crucial process and metal-making industries.

Separately, the more up-to-date December PMI data show that manufacturing momentum strengthened appreciably as businesses reported the fastest rise in new orders since February 2021. The private survey of purchasing managers at about 400 manufacturers signalled that average output growth across these firms hit a 13-month high last month, with the PMI reading of 57.8 pointing to the strongest sectoral expansion since October 2020. Producers of goods stepped up hiring to help them meet a backlog of orders. And though the increase in jobs was the slowest since September, employment across the sector rose for a tenth straight month reflecting the heightened optimism among manufacturers. The PMI survey shows that overall output charge inflation across the private sector has intensified, with manufacturers reporting inflation in selling prices outpacing gains in input costs for the first time in almost two-and-a-half years. Policymakers can ill-afford to drop their guard on inflation at this stage.

Gaming and gambling

Economic rights, personal freedoms, social imperatives must be in balance

The Union government's proposed measures for regulating online gaming in a draft amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Liability and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 leave several questions unanswered. Some of these proposed measures, such as the establishment of a self-regulatory body, collection of know-your-customer (KYC) information from players, and appointment of a grievance officer within the company, are already in place. These are moves that industry bodies representing such companies have encouraged. States such as Tamil Nadu want much stricter regulation of the sector than what is being proposed by the Centre in the draft, particularly for gambling with real money. The Centre's draft remains ambiguous on the question of whether States can have additional restrictions. So far, the industry has staved off several bans by mounting legal challenges arguing that they offer games of skill and not those purely dependent on chance – a tenuous distinction for real money gaming. Still, games that require wagering are outlawed in the physical form under the colonial Public Gambling Act, 1867 or States' own gambling laws. A clear answer should come from the Union government on whether States are empowered to prohibit these games online as they do offline. While the gaming industry has huge potential as an economic driver of growth in India, there is strong case for robust regulation. Of skill or of chance, all online games impact individuals and society, in the short and the long term.

The government has indicated that the definition of an 'online game', which is limited in the draft amendment to wagering platforms, may be expanded in future to include all games broadly. Societies around the world have grappled with the effects of video games on young players, and the addictive cycles that some gamers can get stuck in; China, for instance, has limited the number of hours that young gamers are allowed to play daily, after which they are locked out for the day. Care and restraint must be exercised when pondering similar steps in India, lest the government introduces uncertainty for both small domestic game developers and large international studios with Indian audiences. The government has said the goal is to facilitate the industry and not hinder its growth. It has also indicated that in future, it will try to curb "violent, addictive or sexual content" in video games. There should be widespread public consultation to ensure that economic rights, individual freedoms, and social imperatives remain in balance.

An open letter to the Indian film industry

Pushparaj Deshpande

is the Director of the Samruddha Bharat Foundation, a multi-party platform that furthers India's constitutional promise & the series editor of the Rethinking India series (Penguin)

In 1938, Charlie Chaplin started work on *The Great Dictator*. Even though it critiqued the Nazis, Chaplin was forced to self-sponsor, direct and write the project himself because most mainstream Hollywood studios were hesitant to disrupt ties to German finance, or risk making an overtly political project. Additionally, many in the establishment felt appeasing Adolf Hitler could work, so official censorship was also a real threat. Yet, showing tremendous personal and ideological fortitude, Chaplin forged ahead. The film belied expectations and became Chaplin's biggest commercial success. It was nominated for five Academy awards and became a cult classic.

Contextualise the enormity of Chaplin's achievement. Swimming against the tide, his film mocked Hitler's fetish for photo-ops, self-aggrandising schemes and critiqued the attacks against minorities to distract from economic failures. Most importantly, it exposed the futility of placating authoritarian figures. This was when Hollywood consciously eschewed taking an anti-Nazi stand on screen, even if it privately opposed Nazism.

A site of contestation

A similar situation has come to pass in India. India's film industries are now a site of ideological and political contestation, as *The Kashmir Files* and *Pathaan* controversies highlight. The BJP is consistently leveraging films to sway mass audiences. Mixing religious imagery, patriotism and nationalistic ideals, these films methodically propagate key Sangh Parivar mythologies. The importance given to this endeavour is demonstrated by the fact that no less than the Prime Minister had multiple meetings with key film industry stakeholders, in an effort to prod them into producing "nation-building films".

There has also been a concerted effort to suppress projects which do not fit the BJP's vision of and for India. Consequently, barring some notable exceptions, India's film fraternity consciously self-censors itself, hoping to ride out the storm. Faced with a dispensation that stops at nothing, this self-preservation imperative is understandable. After all, why should an actor or producer or director stand up for constitutional values when they face boycotts and threats, when investigative agencies are unleashed on them, and when no one publicly stands with them?

> The onus of furthering constitutional values is on the film fraternity and on other progressive forces

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Coincidentally, this assault comes at a time when the nature of film consumption is undergoing a structural shift. As the DVD and retail business model has been rendered obsolete, filmmakers no longer get a second shot at turning a profit. This has been exacerbated by the unfortunate reality that confronting regressive values and uncomfortable truths is now a high-risk endeavour, for it could invite the wrath of regressive forces. Faced with these legitimate concerns, filmmakers are opting to churn out extravagant, high-budget films that are divorced from reality, or 'safe' films.

But India's film industries do not have the luxury of escaping socioeconomic and political realities. First, the BJP is creating a 'committed film sector' by attacking the structural integrity of the film and television sectors. By marshalling the full resources of the state (the merging of four film media units ignoring criticism from the industry, subsidising projects of aligned filmmakers, the censor board withholding clearances, etc.) and coaxing its core vote bank to support films that pander to its political and ideological projects, the BJP is gerrymandering the market. That is partly why films like *The Kashmir Files* and *Tanhaji* did well commercially.

Second, progressives are targeted not just for their project choices or because they dissent from the BJP, but for what they represent – an India where you could succeed no matter who you are or where you came from. Motivated by their ideological imperatives, these regressive forces need to constantly reinforce two things to their core vote bank, namely that broad-minded, outspoken and disruptive actors/filmmakers cannot shape India's image of itself, nor do they have an equal space in films.

Third, audiences do not seem to be watching films as an escape from reality. An ideologically captive audience is seemingly endorsing films that mirror what they are force-fed daily through the electronic and digital media. This is not just an act of solidarity with populist mythologies connected to national, religious and community pride; it also enables them to exert illusionary control over those they don't agree with.

However, following Newton's third law, it follows that there is a liberal audience that spurns films with regressive values. That is why films like *Samrat Prithviraj, Dhaakad, Manikarnika,* etc. tanked at the box office, despite the initial leg-up they got from the BJP's ecosystem. If viewership trends on OTT and digital platforms are anything to go by, a silent majority is desperate for films that do not propagate communal, casteist, xenophobic, racist and undemocratic values. In this reading, films that objectively and sensitively address socioeconomic and political realities can succeed commercially. These include *Jai Bhim, Mandela, Article 15, Sardar Udham, Raazi, Mulk* and *Pink*. Similarly, films on the farmers'/students' movements; the lived realities of women, Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Kashmiri Pandits, OBCs, Adivasis and Dalits; and India's multiple successes since 1947 could resonate with, and bind Indians together positively.

Admittedly, actualising these requires courage. But the film fraternity needs to realise that it is an equal partner in fostering a national consciousness. While it does not need to wade into polarised political debates, it can (and must) use its craft in defence of our shared values. Unless it spearheads films and serials that remind us to preserve our humanity, that weave a symphony from the many voices of India and that envision a better tomorrow (while being truthful about today), this tsunami of hatred will not pass.

The shared work of progressives

Yet, the onus of furthering constitutional values is not on India's film fraternity alone. It is also on other progressive forces (including political parties). Given how insidiously regressive forces are colonising the minds of our fellow Indians, all progressives need to support each other in this normative battle for India's soul. We need to propagate our shared values creatively because high-sounding appeals to protect secular, democratic and liberal values do not sway the silent majority. Furthermore, given the state of a section of India's media, we need to open up new fronts. Unless we display politico-cultural dynamism, the BJP will keep changing its goalposts and unleashing new culture wars that liberals will struggle to catch up to. That is why progressives need to support the film and television industries. Civil society/political action against outfits attacking film sets, raising their issues in the legislature, the media and the judiciary, and establishing new platforms and means of support are just a few ways in which India's film industries can be tangibly supported.

B.R. Ambedkar had argued that "constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated". Seen in this light, it is incumbent on progressives to collaborate in the cultivation of mass emotions. Doing this would mean influencing social consciousness through soaring political rhetoric, disruptive movements like the Bharat Jodo Yatra, and the strategic use of popular culture. Notwithstanding the attack on India's constitutional edifice, we must recognise that this is also a moment of possibilities – to redesign our operational methodologies, to shed ideological infirmities and to create a more liberal, just and compassionate India.

The values of local self-governance

Mathew Idiculla

is a legal consultant and a visiting faculty at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru

In December 1992, Parliament passed the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments, which instituted panchayats and municipalities, respectively. These amendments mandated that State governments constitute panchayats (at the village, block and district levels) and municipalities (in the form of municipal corporations, municipal councils and nagar panchayats) in every region. They sought to institute a third-tier of governance in the federal framework through the devolution of functions, funds, and functionaries to local governments.

Since local governments seldom derive their authority directly from the Constitution, India's constitutional reforms for decentralisation are exceptional. But despite these reforms, municipal governments are often seen to be ineffective in addressing even the most basic needs of citizens, such as reliable water supply and walkable footpaths. Urban residents tend to blame "corrupt" local politicians for these civic woes.

However, as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of these reforms, it is important to ask fundamental questions: Why should local governments be empowered? Why are they weak despite constitutional reforms? How can the idea of local self-governance be revived?

The normative basis of local self-governance

Understanding the normative basis of local self-governance is important since this also informs the institutional form local governments take. Local self-governance is linked to the idea of subsidiarity and is typically grounded on two broad arguments. First, it provides for efficient provision of public goods since governments with smaller jurisdictions can provide services as per the preferences of their residents. Second, it promotes deeper democracy since governments that are closer to the people allow citizens to engage with public affairs more easily.

> Debates on federalism should include larger discussions on how power should be divided and shared between governments at the Union, State, and local level

India's decentralisation agenda is also arguably driven by these values. The 73rd and 74th amendments require States to vest panchayats and municipalities with the authority "to enable them to function as institutions of self-government", including the powers to prepare and implement plans and schemes for economic development and social justice. They also mandate the regular conduct of local elections, provide for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Schedules Tribes and women in local councils, and institute participative forums like gram sabhas in panchayats and ward committees in municipal corporations. Hence, the core values that the amendments sought to entrench are that of deepening local democracy and devolving functions for meeting the ends of economic development and social justice. Debates on the role and responsibilities of local governments should be foregrounded by these normative values which have found expression, at least in some regard, in the Constitution.

Despite the constitutional promise of local self-governance, local governments, especially municipalities, operate with limited autonomy and authority. Their frailty may be attributed to the inherent limitations of the 74th amendment and the failure of State governments and courts to implement and interpret the amendment in letter and spirit. Limitations include the discretion given to the States regarding devolution of powers and levying of local taxes. State governments are reluctant to implement the 74th amendment as cities are economic powerhouses and controlling urban land is important for financing State governments and political parties.

The courts have also mostly interpreted the 74th amendment narrowly, allowing State governments to retain their control over cities. In this context, the Patna High Court's recent order declaring some provisions of the Bihar Municipal (Amendment) Act, 2021 as unconstitutional is path-breaking. The 2021 amendment had transferred the powers of appointment of Grade C and D employees of municipalities from the Empowered Standing Committee of the municipality to the State government-controlled Directorate of Municipal Administration. The court held that these provisions violate the 74th Amendment since the recentralization of power and the weakening of self-governance "are incompatible with the idea, intent and design of the constitutional amendment".

Local governments and federalism

This judgment is unprecedented since it tested State municipal laws against the letter and spirit of the 74th Amendment and can potentially reset the position of local governments in India's federal framework. As India is undergoing a centralising shift in its politics, economy, and culture, there's also been a renewed assertion of federalism. However, this assertion of State rights is hardly articulated as value-based normative claims. If we unpack the intellectual arguments for federalism, many of them are also applicable for local self-governance. Hence, debates on federalism should include larger discussions on how power should be divided and shared between governments at the Union, State, and local level since local governments are, normatively and structurally, an integral part of the federal framework of the Constitution.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Debate on jallikattu

It is strange that the senseless and cruel sport of jallikattu is still allowed ("Preventing animal cruelty is a duty of the state," Jan. 4). Bulls are harassed by the crowds. Every Pongal, we read about life-threatening injuries and deaths. It is hoped that the Supreme Court will curb this sport.

Monita Sutherson
Nagercoil

I am from Alanganallur in Madurai. The bulls are not subjected to any cruelty. Simply holding the hump of a bull and running a short distance is not cruelty. Bull owners take good care of their bulls. Animals and birds are killed throughout the world for various reasons; yet only this sport attracts the ire of people.

R. Solairaj
Chennai

Silence speaks

The four judges of the Supreme Court might not have found any flaws on demonestisation, but the Prime Minister's silence tells a different story ("Overly deferential", Jan. 4). The Prime Minister, who never misses an opportunity to talk of his government's achievements, has never spoken about demonetisation. Therein lies the truth of what a disaster it turned out to be.

Sajid Farooq
Kurnool

China's fury

The problem with China is its opacity. The world does not have an idea of the extent of prevalence or severity of COVID-19 in China ("China warns of measures against 'unacceptable' travel restrictions," Jan. 4). China cannot dictate terms to other countries. It has failed to contain the pandemic because of its policies. It seems to want to downplay the severity of this wave, but the world cannot afford to be lax.

V. Lakshmanan
Tirupur

Corrections & Clarifications

Editing error: In a Sports page story titled "Ravi Teja helps Hyderabad bowl out Andhra cheaply" (Jan. 4 2023, some editions), the photo caption erroneously said "Ravi Teja made use of the conditions well to trouble the *Hyderabad batters.*" It should have been *Andhra batters.*

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Muhammad Iqbal: a poet for all ages

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Obtrusively, India walks away from Muhammad Iqbal, the man who penned Tarana-i-Hindi, 'Saare jahan se achcha Hindustan hamara'. It may not be a crime yet to sing his *Bachche ki Dua* (A Child's Prayer) but it is close as proved by a recent incident in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh where a principal and a *shiksha mitr* were booked for asking children in the school assembly to sing, "Lab pe aati hai dua ban ke tamanna meri".

We live in times when patriotism is considered the exclusive privilege of a few. The usage of words such as *Rab*, *Khuda-ra* and *Allah* in the poem upset a Vishwa Hindu Parishad functionary so much that he lodged a first information report (FIR) with the police. The principal herself was either so frightened or ignorant that instead of defending the lines of the poem, she claimed to be on leave from school on the day the alleged crime of singing the nazm took place. Neither the complainant nor the police or even the accused knew much about the poem.

Incidentally, words such as *Rab* and *Khuda* are uniquely Indian, and transcend the boundaries of religion. Not just Muslims but also Sikhs and some Hindus in north India use *Rab* for Almighty. Same with *Khuda*, an expression freely used for God in Urdu literature.

'Lab pe aati hai dua' was penned in 1902 and was inspired by Matilda Edwards' 'A Child's Prayer'. It has been sung in schools for almost a hundred years in north India. It did not change with the adoption of Muhammad Iqbal as the poet of the nation by Pakistan.

For many government schools, where children are not as comfortable with English, this poem was part of the morning ritual. As unlike a Saraswati Vandana, a Biblical hymn, an Islamic surah, it was not a religious address. No parent objected to a child reciting 'Lab pe aati hai dua'. Who could possibly raise objections to a child singing, "Make my life like that of a moth, O Lord/May I love the candle of knowledge/May my work be the protection of the poor/ May I love the sympathetic and the elderly/ My Lord! Save me from wrongdoing/ Help me walk on the path of the good"?

Poet-translator Mustansir Dalvi wrote in *Iqbal: Taking Issue and Allah's Answer*, "Being Indian and of India inspired many of Iqbal's poems." Iqbal was the one who called Ram Imam-e-Hind. He wrote in praise of Nanak, calling him Mard-e-Kamil or perfect man. He had the width of vision and depth of knowledge to translate the Gayatri Mantra into Urdu as *Aaftab* (The Sun). In *Naya Shivala* (New Temple), he deified the nation. He loved India to an extent that he raised it higher to any place in the world, including Arabia with its places of worship.

Iqbal wrote, "Saare jahan se achcha Hindustan hamara", decades before V.D. Savarkar coined his pitrabhu (fatherland) and punyabhu (holy land) theory to distinguish between those whose birth land and sacred land were within the confines of India, and those whose sacred land was abroad. Iqbal was above such demarcation and denomination.

'Two-nation theory'

Not that he did not have his critics when he was alive, or even after his death. When he penned *Shikwa* (Taking Issue) in 1909, a large section of ulemma was upset with his lament to God. The provocation was followed by pacification with *Jawab-e-Shikwa* (Allah's Answer) where God answers Iqbal's prayer. That was all in the world of the millat and ummat (community and universal brotherhood based on Islam). The larger Indian society often saw him through the prism of two-nation theory under which he believed, unlike Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, and very much like Savarkar, Hindus and Muslims were two separate nations.

Yet, there was much more to Iqbal. He chose his audience with care. When he was in Lahore, he used to recite his *kalam* freely. When in Sialkot, he would never give a hint of being a *shayar* or take part in poetic soirees. In Europe, after initial years when he found great scientific and economic progress and, in his mind, found the Muslim society lagging in comparison, he worried for Western society's streak of materialism. Before he became wedded to the idea of ummah's internationalism, Iqbal was a staunch patriot who celebrated India's rivers and mountains, called its citizens bulbulein (singing birds) and the country their garden. 'Saare jahan se achcha' extolled *wataniyat* or love for the nation.

All that is consigned to the yellowed pages of history. Like his audience then, what Iqbal needs today is a discerning look at his works, away from the prism of pre-1905 when he went to Europe, or post 1909, when he came back. This may not be possible at a time when he is increasingly becoming a victim of 'we' and 'they' politics – sort of collateral consequence of bigotry. Just as 'Saare jahan se achcha' is being heard less and less on public platforms, and in danger of being confined to Urdu-medium schools, his other works, including 'Himala' where he praises the mountain chain guarding India, are being forgotten. It is, however, better than the irresponsible accusation that followed the singing of "Lab pe aati hai dua" in Bareilly.

"Time is hard on writers, particularly after the causes they fought for have been won, lost or overtaken by events," noted author-critic Sham Lal, more than a couple of decades ago. For Iqbal, the hard time could be now. Reduced to being a prisoner of posterity, Iqbal stands forsaken by the nation in whose every speck he found a whiff of divinity. As he once wrote, "Khhak-e-watan ka mujhko har zarra devta hai" (Each dust particle of my motherland is God to me).

Reduced to being a prisoner of posterity, he stands forsaken by the nation in whose every speck he found a whiff of divinity

Clamour for a bigger slice of quota pie

Ahead of elections, Karnataka sees an increased demand for reservation

STATE OF PLAY

Sharath S. Srivatsa
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In an election year, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Karnataka has been busy slicing up the reservation pie, causing much confusion and raising many concerns, about both their viability and base in the principles of social justice.

Side stepping the social and educational backwardness criteria for which data is currently not available, the government, which is facing anti-incumbency and allegations of corruption, has tried to mollify two powerful communities – Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats – by creating categories of 2C and 2D in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) block, respectively. The two communities are currently in 3A and 3B, and have been demanding reclassification and a hike in quotas. The government has claimed that this additional quota will be carved out of the 10% economically weaker section (EWS) pool, which is expected to throw up some legal complications.

The creation of 2D for Veerashaiva-Lingayats – the traditional BJP voters – was essentially done to placate Panchamasalis, the numerically-strong Lingayat subcaste in North Karnataka, which for years has sought change of category from the current 3B (4% quota) to category 2A (15% quota). Surprisingly, category 2C for Vokkaligas, who have demanded 12% reservation based on their population, has been created even before the community launched a serious agitation. It is seen as the BJP's attempt to make inroads in the Vokkaliga-dominated

Old Mysore region, where it is weak.

Besides these, there are demands coming from many relatively better off communities in Karnataka either for a change in category or higher reservation, citing population size or economic criterion, and not socio-educational backwardness or untouchability among other factors considered for caste-based reservation. Prominent leaders are also actively pushing to seek reservation for the communities that they belong to, leaving by the wayside smaller communities without a powerful voice and political representation.

For instance, currently under 2A category, Kuruba – a numerically bigger and electorally important caste among backward classes – is seeking an ST tag while Marathas, currently in 3B category, are asking for a 2A tag.

The "special treatment" to the two politically well-represented and land-owning communities of Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats is being seen as "discriminatory", as hundreds of castes and subcastes in other backward classes languish without proper representation. Several micro castes in backward classes in the State have not benefited from reservation. It is also argued that the new categories – in the absence of any reliable data – could be questioned in a court.

In Karnataka, the hike in quota for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in October last year has breached the Supreme Court-set ceiling for reservation. The total matrix now stands at 56%, including 32% for backward classes, 17% for SCs and 7% for STs.

Incidentally, the socio-economic survey or the caste census – details of which have not been made public – conducted by the Karnataka Permanent Backward Classes Commission is in the cold storage since 2017. The government decision also comes at a time when the Commission has prepared a report on the demand for change of categories or inclusion of 25 smaller communities, a decision related to which is yet to be taken.

While the BJP government has claimed credit for implementing the long-pending demand of SCs and STs for hike in quota, based on the Justice H. Nagmohan Das Commission report, it can be challenged in court unless included in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution. In another development, the Government has also set up a Cabinet sub-committee to study the possibility of providing internal reservation among SCs based on the 2012 report of the Justice A.J. Sadashiva Commission.

Ahead of elections, while the BJP has tried to appease various communities, it may have also tied itself in knots on some fronts. For instance, while Vokkaligas and Panchamasalis are viewing the new classification with caution, the SC "right" groups are unhappy with the move towards internal reservation. Whether these moves will stand the test of law is a big question yet to be addressed in a State that is already in election mode.

Contextualising the rise in retail investments in stock market

Extended bull runs in FY20 and FY21 helped shift asset ownership toward the bourses, albeit, marginally

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani

In June 2022, when Dalal Street witnessed a significant bear-run as stock market indices - Sensex and Nifty - reached their 52-week lows and foreign portfolio investors continued their selling spree, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman dubbed India's retail investors as 'shock absorbers.'

In the Data Point published on December 29, 2022, The Hindu explained how retail investors played an important role in counterbalancing foreign outflows. A closer look at asset ownership on a household level shows that while their share in instruments such as mutual funds and equities is rising, it still accounts for only 8% of all households' total financial assets.

Ownership matrix

Indian households traditionally held their wealth in physical assets such as real estate and gold. But FY21 saw a dramatic shift towards financial assets. Within financial assets, deposits have always been the preferable instrument. As of FY22, households parked 27% of their assets in deposits followed by provident, pension funds and life insurance funds (**chart 1**). Investments which include mutual funds and equities comprised 8.9% of their financial assets. Chart 1 shows the share of instruments in total financial assets as of FY22.

While bank deposits occupy a major share in the ownership mix, their share has undergone a significant decline. From 34.3% in 2018-19, the share of bank deposits in asset ownership came down to 25.5% in 2021-22. Simultaneously, the share of mutual funds and equities in households' financial asset allocation surged to 8% by FY22 (**chart 2**). The chart shows the share of bank deposits, equities and mutual funds in total financial assets.

This shift in asset ownership can be attributed to the bull rally of 2020 and 2021. In the past 10 years, annual returns of BSE Sensex showed bouts of high returns followed by an immediate fall. However, the rally that started in 2020 strengthened in 2021, luring households to move away from deposits. Following weak corporate earnings and trade tensions between the U.S. and China in 2019, bourses rebounded on the back of strong FPI flows and the easing of COVID-induced lockdowns in 2020. The reopening of the economy, and recovery in auto sales boosted Sensex's gains in 2021.

BSE Sensex delivered 15.6% and 21.7% returns in 2020 and 2021, respectively, while the SBI's term deposit rates for one year or more hovered around 5%. The deposit rates (as of December 31 for each year) had been on a downward trend since 2019 and by 2021, they touched 5%. **Chart 3** shows annual returns from BSE Sensex and the SBI's term deposit rates for a duration of one year or more.

In 2022, deposit rates increased on the back of hikes in the benchmark repo rate, albeit with a considerable lag. The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks. The central bank hikes repo rate in order to flush out excess liquidity from the financial system and to curtail spiralling inflation. The deposit rate and lending rate are intrinsically linked to the repo rate. A rise in repo rate by the central bank results in a rise in lending and deposit rates. This makes borrowing costlier and benefits the depositors.

In the past eight months, the RBI has raised the repo rate on five instances. While the deposit rate has also considerably increased during the same period, it hasn't caught up with the benchmark policy rate (**chart 4**), largely because of the relative rigidity in changes in deposit rates as banks want to protect their net interest margins (as an article in the RBI's March 2020 bulletin points out).

Tracing shifts in asset ownership

The data for charts were sourced from the Reserve Bank of India, BSE, CRISIL, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy and the State Bank of India

Chart 1 : The chart shows the share of instruments in financial assets of households (HHs) as of FY22. Deposits form a major share followed by pension and provident funds

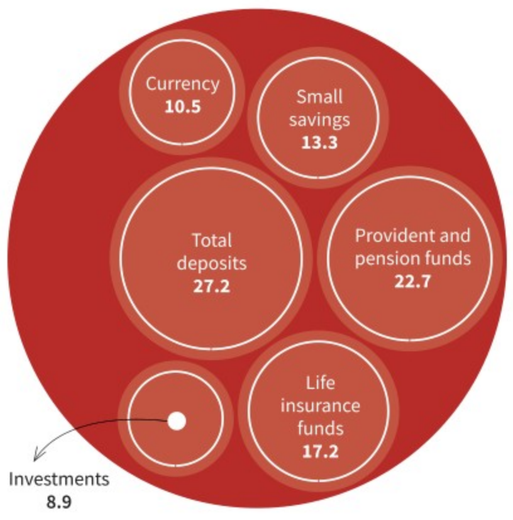


Chart 2 : The chart shows the share of bank deposits(●), equities and mutual funds (●) in financial assets of HHs

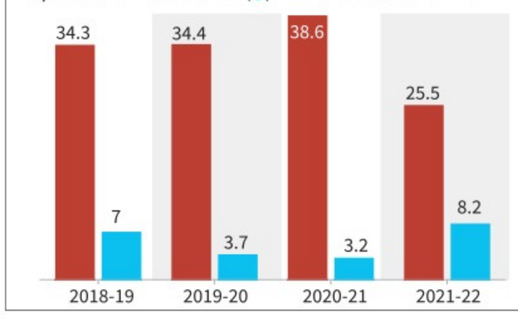


Chart 3 : The chart shows annual returns from BSE Sensex and the SBI's term deposit rates for a duration of one year or more. Shift in asset ownership can be attributed to the bull rally

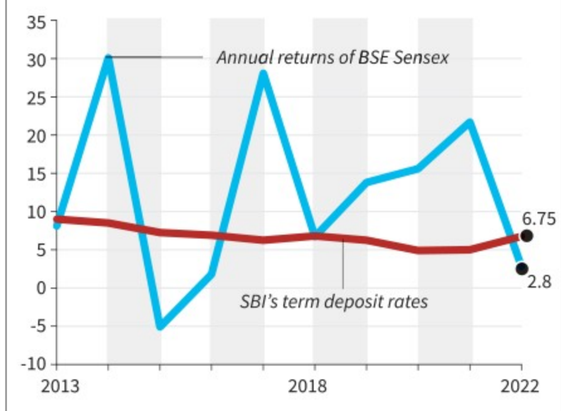
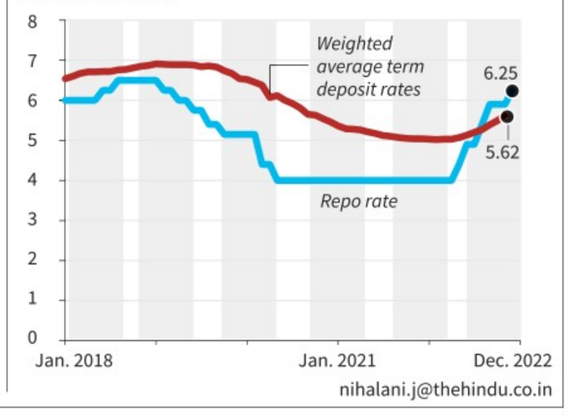


Chart 4: The chart shows month-wise repo rate and the weighted average of domestic term deposit rates of scheduled commercial banks



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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 5, 1973

Cyclone warning radar installed in Madras port

Madras, Jan. 4: A cyclone warning radar, capable of tracking cyclonic storms within a radius of 500 km from Madras, has been installed on the top of the Port Trust building at a cost of Rs. 30 lakhs. It will be inaugurated on January 9 by the Union Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Dr. Sarojini Mahishi. The radar, even while being tested, has proved its worth during the recent severe cyclonic storm which crossed the coast near Cuddalore on December 6. With the aid of this radar, precise hour to hour positions of the storm were determined and weather bulletins based on these observations were issued for being broadcast continuously both day and night at AIR station at Pondicherry. Explaining the characteristic features of the radar to newsmen to-day, Dr. A.A. Rama Shastri, Director, Regional Meteorological Centre, Nungambakkam said that it was a sophisticated modern equipment with integrated and transistorised circuits. Manufactured by Mitsubishi Electric Corporation of Japan to specifications laid down by the India Meteorological Department, the radar had a parabolic "dish antenna", 4 metres in diameter, radiations at peak power output of about 500 kilowatts.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 5, 1923

New Railway in Malabar

Calicut: The Malabar District Board discussed at its last evening's meeting the question of constructing the proposed Shoranur Manantoddy Railway for the purpose of opening up the fanatical zones of Ernad and Walluvanad Taluks. The President explained the commercial, political and strategic value of the line and the Board passed the following resolutions which was seconded by Mr. P. Kunhinni Menon and supported by Dewan Bahadur G.T. Verghese. The District Board will undertake the opening of Shoranur Manantoddy Railway on the following conditions: that the Government will undertake to give the required loan or help in getting the required loan on as favourable a rate of interest as possible; that the Government will guarantee interest on the loan to be raised; should the line work at a net profit after meeting all expenses including interest on the loan, such profits should go to Dt. Board.

From Page One

Centre clears Green Hydrogen Mission

According to the government, the mission would lead to the development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT per annum with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW by 2030. It is expected to bring in investments of over ₹8 lakh crore, create over six lakh jobs, and help meet international commitments to fight climate change.

"Under the SIGHT programme, two distinct financial incentive mechanisms – targeting domestic manufacturing of electrolysers and production of green hydrogen – will be provided. The mission will also support pilot projects in emerging end-use sectors and production pathways. Regions capable of supporting large-scale production and/or utilisation of hydrogen will be identified and developed as green hydrogen hubs," it said.

Public-private partnership

While a robust standards and regulations framework is to be developed for the ecosystem, the mission will facilitate a public-private partnership framework for research and development (R&D).

The new policy is in part to green the hydrogen used as fuel in various sectors, to the tune of 6 million tonnes per annum as of 2020, and to replace fuels in other sectors.

Some roadblocks in its implementation are procuring the electrolysers and electrolytes required to produce 'green' hydrogen and reducing the contribution of fossil fuel sources in India's power generation mix. The former are already in great demand; the latter requires more and cheaper solar and wind power.

The Ministry of Power is expected to raise demand for use of hydrogen as a fuel, which, industry members have noted, could be another issue in the absence of a mandate to transition and technologies to adapt hydrogen fuel cells for use in vehicles.

Storing and moving hydrogen also incurs non-trivial costs because the gas leaks easily. Even small quantities of liquid hydrogen, which is easier to transport, react explosively with air.

Train ticketing platform affected by data breach

"We have reported the incident to the government authorities and are exploring legal steps to be taken," the RailYatri spokesperson said.

The company said it was working with the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) to investigate the breach and audit its security systems. "Our platforms have proper authorisation and authentication in place and access to the applications is through HTTPS and servers are behind firewalls which can be accessed through VPN only by authorised teams."

While the breach was reported to the authorities on December 28, the Railway Board did not name RailYatri when it issued a statement on December 30 denying that data were stolen from IRCTC. "All IRCTC business partners" such as reselling platforms like RailYatri were asked to evaluate their systems, a Railway Board spokesperson had said.

Over 30 million user records were reportedly being sold on the dark web as a result of the breach. RailYatri suffered a similar breach in 2020, which was reported by Safety Detectives, a portal run by security researchers and privacy experts. That breach impacted 7,00,000 users, the portal said.

While the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 provides for penalties in the event of a data breach, the law is yet to be passed, over five years after the Supreme Court affirmed the constitutional right to privacy and kick-started the process for the creation of data protection legislation. Previous drafts of the Bill were either withdrawn or reworked in past years.

Services PMI shows surge in December

Consumer services were hit the most by this surge in input cost inflation, while financial and insurance services firms enhanced their charges by the most extent for the second successive month.

The services sector continued to scale up hiring to keep pace with the upturn in output and business, but the extent of job creation dropped to a five-month low. Though overall positive sentiment was above-average, companies were 'least upbeat' in three months with competitive pressures and inflation concerns dampening overall optimism, S&P Global said.

"As we head into 2023, companies signalled strong optimism towards the outlook for output," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence. "Around 31% of panellists forecast growth, while only 2% anticipate a contraction," she added.

"Inflation trends were mixed, as input prices rose at a faster pace and the upturn in charges moderated. On the expense front, services firms reported pressure from energy, food, staff and transportation costs and several companies felt the need to transfer escalating costs through to clients," she added.

Aggregate sales rose sharply and at the fastest pace since August, boosted by quicker expansions at goods producers and services companies, S&P Global noted about the combined performance of manufacturing and services sector in December.

SC stays order allowing U.P. local body polls without OBC reservation

Bench records State's assurance to complete exercise to identify politically backward classes on or before March 31; three-member committees with limited powers will handle administration where tenures of elected bodies have expired

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed an Allahabad High Court direction to the State of Uttar Pradesh to hold local body elections without reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC).

"To hold elections without reservation... that would not be a satisfactory state of affairs," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud orally observed.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for U.P., said the direction, if implemented, would mean that "one segment of the State would remain unrepresented".

The High Court, on December 27, ordered elections to be held without OBC reservation after discovering that Uttar Pradesh had not complied with the "triple-test" criterion mandated by the Supreme Court to conduct a "contemporaneous rigorous empirical investigation" to identify backward classes in the State who deserve political representation in local bodies.

> Why should we say the Dedicated Commission will not recognise a new category [of politically backward communities]. We don't want to injunct the commission
>
> **JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**

On Wednesday, Mr. Mehta informed the court that the State had on December 28, a day after the High Court order, notified the formation of the Uttar Pradesh State Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission.

He assured the court that though the commission was given six months' time to complete its work, it could be done within three months "without compromising on quality". The court recorded his submission that the commission would complete the exercise "as expeditiously as possible on or before March 31, 2023".

Mr. Mehta said there were 79 backward communities listed in the Schedule of the U.P. State Public Services (Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Act, 1994. "The limited scope of the Backward Classes Commission is to determine the political backwardness of the existing listed communities and not get into identifying new OBCs," the law officer submitted.

However, the Bench, including Justice P.S. Narasimha, said the court did not want to "injunct" the commission.

"Why should we say the commission will not recognise a new category," CJI Chandrachud asked.

As an interim measure, the Bench adopted the High Court's direction to form three-member committees headed by the District Magistrates in places where the tenures of elected bodies had expired.

The Bench ordered the State government to issue a fresh order delegating the day-to-day administrative work of local bodies to such three-member committees. These committees, however, would take no policy decision.

The court issued notice to parties who were writ petitioners in the Allahabad High Court and listed the case after three weeks. The State government and the Election Commission had appealed to the Supreme Court against the High Court order.

Advocate G. Mohan Gopal, appearing on caveat, indicated that the case raised the fundamental question of whether OBC reservation in local bodies should be limited to the existing backward communities listed in the 1994 Act.

Justice Trivedi recuses self from Bilkis Bano case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Justice Bela M. Trivedi of the Supreme Court on Wednesday recused herself from hearing petitions challenging a Gujarat government decision to prematurely release 11 men sentenced to life imprisonment for gang-raping Bilkis Bano and murdering her family during the 2002 riots.

The petitions were filed by several individuals, including CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali and Trinamool leader Mahua Moitra.

Justice Trivedi had earlier recused from hearing a writ petition filed by Ms. Bano herself, challenging the premature release.

The Bench, led by Justice Ajay Rastogi, tagged the third-party petitions of Ms. Ali and Ms. Moitra with that of Ms. Bano and ordered the case to be listed whenever Justice Trivedi was not part of the Bench.

Justice Nazeer retires, says he had 'lived a dream'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Justice S. Abdul Nazeer, the only judge from a minority community who was part of a five-member Supreme Court Bench in the Ayodhya case, retired on Wednesday.

Justice Nazeer's retirement came after two back-to-back judgments in which a Constitution Bench he led had upheld this week the 2016 demonetisation process and declared that there was no need to impose additional restrictions on the free speech right of Ministers, MPs, MLAs and other leaders.

The judge, who retired as the third senior-most judge of the court and a member of the Supreme Court Collegium, said in his farewell speech that the trajectory his legal career took, from being a lawyer in Karnataka to becoming a Supreme Court judge, felt like he had "lived a dream".

SC to hear petitions of Haldwani residents facing eviction after HC order

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Abhay S. Oka is scheduled on Thursday to hear petitions challenging an order passed by the Uttarakhand High Court to evict poor families whose tenements spread over 29 acres of land are said to belong to the Railways at Haldwani in Nainital.

A Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud agreed to list the case on Thursday after advocates Prashant Bhushan and Vipin Nair, appearing for the affected petitioner-residents of Banbhulpura and Mohalla Nai Basti, requested the court to hear the case on an urgent basis.

The High Court on December 20 ordered the eviction of all "unauthorised occupants" from the railway land within a week's time.

The court directed the railway authorities and the district administration to even use paramilitary forces to remove the occupants from the land.

Desperate times: Women gather on the streets and pray against the removal of encroachment from railway land, in Haldwani. PTI

Protests follow order

Thousands of residents of Banbhulpura had protested against the removal of encroachments, saying it will render them homeless and jeopardise the future of their school-going children. The move would affect a large number of women, children and the elderly.

"Ours is a welfare state where government authorities need to work towards the well-being and prosperity of the citizens. In the present case, they have proceeded without following due process to issue ex-parte orders against the petitioners and produce arbitrary demarcation report... Such an approach shows an absolute disregard to procedure of law and is in complete violation of basic humanitarian and fundamental rights," the petition said.

Bajrang Dal, VHP cadres tear posters of *Pathaan* in mall

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Five of them were detained by the police but released later; it is not known yet if a case was filed

Ahead of the release of Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone-starrer *Pathaan*, a group of Bajrang Dal workers in Ahmedabad tore up the posters of the movie at Ahmedabad One Mall on Wednesday.

According to sources, Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) cadre removed installations created for the film's publicity outside the Cinepolis multiplex, located on the upper floor of Ahmedabad's largest mall in the posh Vastrapur area.

Angry activists vandalised the posters and cut-outs and hoardings while shouting slogans against the star cast of the movie. It is not yet known whether the police have lodged a case against those involved in the incident. The Vastrapur police visited the spot and detained five activists, who were released later.

On Tuesday, the Hindu Jagran Manch, a right wing organisation, staged a demonstration at a theatre in Indore.

Ahead of its worldwide release, *Pathaan* has been battling controversy and calls for a ban after the release of its song "Besharam Rang" on December 12. A sequence in the song showing Deepika in a saffron bikini led to protests across India for allegedly hurting "Hindu sentiment". Last month, the Central Board of Film Certification directed the makers to implement "changes" in the movie, including its songs, in accordance with board guidelines.

Directed by Siddharth Aanand, *Pathaan* is set to be released in theatres on January 25.

(With PTI inputs)

Post vandalism, VHP decries conversion, demands strict laws

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Had the govt. acted against missionaries on time, it would not have come to this, says VHP's Parande

Days after some tribal groups allegedly vandalised a church in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad on Wednesday said that it believed efforts to stop illegal conversions should be made within the ambit of the Constitution and law.

The VHP condemned the Chhattisgarh government, and said that if it had acted against the Christian missionaries on time, the people would not have had to come to the streets to safeguard their rights.

Milind Parande, VHP's general secretary, said that tensions were escalating in the country from illegal conversions and "healing meetings organised by the people of a particular religion".

"We are concerned over the incidents of illegal conversions by Christian missionaries in Chhattisgarh. The people of the State have worked resolutely in stopping these activities. VHP stands with them," he said.

Mr. Parande added that the States that have implemented strict laws against illegal conversions are witnessing a downfall in conversion activities.

"It is the ultimate duty of the State government to protect the interests of the tribal society. The incidents in Chhattisgarh have again underlined the need for a strict law in the State to stop illegal conversions," he added.

Since the violence, both the Congress and have been BJP have been targeting each other for creating unrest in the State.

Narayanpur violence: two local BJP leaders among 11 persons arrested till date

Shubhomoy Sikdar
BHOPAL

The Chhattisgarh Police have arrested at least 11 persons – including the current and former district presidents of the BJP – in connection with violent incidents over purported religious conversions in Narayanpur earlier this week.

BJP leaders Rupsay Salam, 55, and Narayan Markam, 50, have been arrested in connection with Monday's attack on a church and injuries sustained by Superintendent of Police, Narayanpur, Sadanand Kumar.

Mr. Salam assumed charge as the BJP district president in October and since then, he and Mr. Markam have led several campaigns against Christian missionaries in villages across Narayanpur, sources said.

Long history: The two BJP leaders have led many campaigns against Christian missionaries across Narayanpur, say sources.

These few months have coincided with several violent incidents over the issue of religious conversions in the State.

Inspector-General of Police, Bastar, P. Sundarraj said the duo and four others were arrested because they had called the meeting that was attended by 2,000 people, and later branched out into smaller marches, and one such group attacked the church.

On the latest incident being linked to previous incidents of attacks on Christians or other clashes, Mr. Sundarraj said that at present, the focus was on two incidents – the one in Gorra village where two groups clashed on Sunday, and the church attack in which Mr. Kumar was injured a day later.

The situation remains tense even as the police and the district administration called a peace meeting on Wednesday, asking all sides to exercise restraint.

Won't take any blame for bank frauds in the past: RBI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India in the Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to take any blame for multi-crore bank frauds in the past, saying individual bank managements are responsible for large-value loan sanctions, their management and monitoring.

The RBI has no role in their day-to-day affairs, the bank informed a Bench led by Justice B.R. Gavai.

The RBI and the CBI found themselves on the same side while countering a petition filed by former MP Subramanian Swamy and advocate Satyapaul Sabharwal seeking a CBI probe into the "alleged connivance" of RBI officials in 10 "scams", including the Kingfisher scam, Bank of Maharashtra scam, Nirav Modi/Punjab National Bank scam, Rotomac Global Private Limited scam.

Ram temple secretary lauds Rahul Gandhi's yatra

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after the chief priest of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, Acharya Satyendra Das, extended his wishes to Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Ram Temple Trust's general secretary and senior Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader, Champat Rai, appreciated Mr. Gandhi for his efforts.

"A 50-year-old 'young' man is walking in this chilling weather to know India. What else we can do if not appreciate his efforts," Mr. Rai said.

He added that he was a leader of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) and no one in the RSS had ever criticised the yatra.

The chief priest wrote to Mr. Gandhi on December 31 congratulating him for the yatra.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Das on Wednesday said he had written the letter on a Congress invitation as party workers visited him to request his presence at the yatra on the day it entered Uttar Pradesh.

In sugar cane land, Rahul's yatra sows seeds of new political alliances

In western Uttar Pradesh, Rashtriya Lok Dal local leadership mobilises numbers for Bharat Jodo Yatra; Peace Party and Bhim Army also make their presence felt; Congress leader appeals to the youth, farmers and workers not to fear

Anuj Kumar
BAGHPAT

Scores of larger-than-life cut-outs of Rahul Gandhi in different poses – one in which he is seen chewing sugar cane and another in a combat pose – have been lined up on the roads as the Bharat Jodo Yatra entered the Jat-dominated western Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday.

The focus is on depicting Mr. Gandhi as a family man, with multiple images of the Congress leader with his sister, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and mother, Sonia Gandhi. The posters speak of the Congress's commitment to the minimum support price (MSP), and how Mr. Gandhi carried the essence of Lord Shiva's philosophy in his heart.

The yatra hinted at possibilities of new political alliances, with the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) local leadership mobilising numbers for the march. The flags of the Peace Party, and workers of the Bhim Army, could also be seen.

Marching on: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Uttar Pradesh's Baraut on Wednesday. PTI

Addressing a well-attended meeting in Baraut town of Baghpat district, Mr. Gandhi took on the BJP for generating fear and hatred among citizens. He also highlighted the issues of rising inflation and unemployment.

Mr. Gandhi appealed to the youth, farmers and workers not to fear, and said he had drawn this "don't fear" attitude from the philosophy of Lord Shiva. "The BJP government believes in generating fear among youth, farmers and workers through its ill-conceived policies and then uses this fear to create an atmosphere of hate. We have to eliminate this hatred," he said.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would raise the issue of rising cost of gas cylinders and petrol while he was in the Opposition during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) rule but he was now silent when the price of a cylinder had increased from ₹400 to ₹1,200

The loudest applause came when Mr. Gandhi raised concerns over the Agniveer scheme for recruitment to the armed forces, which he said would force young Army recruits to return home in four years. "When the youth protested against the scheme, they were told that if they were photographed while protesting, they would not get government jobs," he said.

Earlier, chastising a section of the media, Mr. Gandhi said those who were concerned about him walking in a T-shirt should worry about why "farmers and workers have no proper winter clothing".

After RLD president Chaudhary Jayant Singh directed party workers to welcome the yatra in the party's stronghold, RLD workers turned up in large numbers and offered jaggery to the yatris as a symbol of welcome to the sugar cane belt. "Mr. Gandhi has come with a message of peace and nobody should shut the door for such a noble initiative," Ajay Tomar, senior RLD leader, said, adding that this did not mean ceding political space to the Congress in the region.

Salman Khurshid, in charge of the yatra in Uttar Pradesh, thanked the RLD chief for his "generous gesture". The political messaging, he said, was that the Congress was alive in U.P. On designing the schedule in U.P. in a way that did not create insecurity in the minds of the Samajwadi Party and the RLD, Mr. Khurshid told *The Hindu* the yatra was not a contest for political space.

"It is about getting everybody together. If not today, tomorrow, or the day after," he said.

INBRIEF

Congress forms committee to evaluate Gujarat election

Following its worst electoral defeat in the Gujarat Assembly election, the Congress on Wednesday set up a three-member fact-finding committee to identify the causes and suggest corrective measures. All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K.C. Venugopal said: "The Committee will submit a report to Hon'ble Congress president within two weeks." The panel will be headed by former Maharashtra Minister Nitin Raut, who also leads the party's Scheduled Caste (SC) Department.

Sonia Gandhi hospitalised with respiratory infection

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi to treat a viral respiratory infection, a statement from the hospital said on Wednesday. "She has been admitted in the Department of Chest Medicine under the care of Dr. Arup Basu and his team. Mrs. Gandhi has been admitted for observation and treatment of a viral respiratory infection," read a health bulletin. She is said to have been unwell since Tuesday, which is why Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra returned to Delhi after taking part in the Bharat Jodo Yatra that entered U.P. on Tuesday evening.

Isudan Gadhvi appointed AAP president in Gujarat

Isudan Gadhvi was on Wednesday appointed the Gujarat president of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). A former news anchor, he was projected as the party's chief ministerial candidate during the Gujarat Assembly election. He replaced Gopal Italia who was made the party's national joint secretary and co-incharge of Maharashtra. Other appointments include working presidents for six zones in Gujarat – Ramesh Patel (north), Chaitar Vasava (south), Jewel Vasra (central), Jagmal Vala (Saurashtra), Kailash Gadhvi (Kutch) and Alpesh Kathiria (Surat).

Officials face action for razing houses

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Assam government has assured the Gauhati High Court that action against officers for bulldozing a few houses in Nagaon district in May 2022, would be taken in 15 days.

The local authorities had bulldozed the houses of five villagers hours after a mob had burnt down the Batadrava police station, to protest a custodial death of Safikul Islam.

The authorities had justified the action, claiming the houses were built on illegally occupied land in Salnabori village with forged documents.

On Tuesday, the court heard the public interest litigation plea on the case.

Advocate-General of Assam Devajit Saikia told the court that a committee headed by the Chief Secretary was inquiring into the incident and that action would be taken within 15 days from January 3.

BJP to attend EC demonstration on remote voting machines on Jan. 16

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will attend the demonstration of the remote voting EVM prototype to held by the Election Commission (EC) for various parties on January 16.

The demonstration will be held for all eight recognised national and 57 State political parties in India. The prototype will, it is hoped, enable remote voting by migrants in the subsequent election.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Om Pathak, who deals with issues related to the EC for the BJP, confirmed that the party would be attending the demonstration.

Congress letter

Responding to the Congress letter to the Election Commission that it would not be attending the demonstration and that the poll body should first "restore trust" in the electoral process, Mr. Pathak said that the BJP "had full trust in the EC and the way elections are held in India whether the party wins or loses polls".

Mr. Pathak added that the BJP "believes in inclusive democracy and voting rights for all" and that migrant population needed to have their voting rights protected. "This move will deepen democracy and the BJP has always been in favour of that," he said.

While the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Trinamool Congress have echoed the Congress's stand on not attending the meet, parties such as the Janata Dal(U) and the Telugu Desam Party have said they will attend it. The CPI(M) and the CPI said they will attend the meet but will only clarify their position by January 31, the deadline put out by the EC for the same.

Ministry rebuts CMIE analysis on unemployment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Labour Ministry, apparently irked over the routine unemployment data published by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, has cautioned against such surveys by private organisations.

It said on Wednesday that such surveys are "generally neither scientific nor based on internationally accepted norms". Rebutting the CMIE analysis that the unemployment rate has touched a 16-month high of 8.3% in December, it said the Periodic Labour Force Survey indicated that the employment market had not only recovered the pandemic jolt but was also at levels higher than the pre-pandemic level.

App-based attendance for MGNREGS is a strike on poor: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The mobile application-based attendance system for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation Scheme (MGNREGS) workers should be withdrawn and those who have lost wages due to technical errors in the past must be compensated, the Congress said on Wednesday.

This is the Modi government's digital strike on the poor and a backdoor move to reduce expenditure on the MGNREGS, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said.

The Hindu reported on December 27 the Rural Development Ministry's order to make capturing attendance through a mobile app universal for all work sites.

Mr. Ramesh, in a statement, said the move, which was reportedly introduced to increase transparency, will have the exact opposite effect.

"It will introduce new avenues for corruption. Workers will find it harder to get paid. People without expensive smartphones, especially women and those from marginalised communities, will be disempowered," he said.

"What is worse, MGNREGA payments are linked to measurement of work done, which is completely absent from the app," he added.

Earlier, physical muster rolls, which required each worker to sign, were available to all.

India tried to defuse Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant situation: Jaishankar

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India tried to defuse the situation around Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and quietly helped in the grain deal between Moscow and Kyiv, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said.

In an interview to Austria's *Die Press* newspaper, Mr. Jaishankar, while replying to a question on the Ukraine conflict, indicated India's readiness to contribute towards defusing the situation.

He vehemently rejected charges of New Delhi being a war profiteer over its procurement of discounted Russian oil.

He described the cap on the price of Russian crude oil as a Western decision that was taken without any consultations with India. The Minister asserted that New Delhi will never automatically sign into what others have cooked up.

He paid a four-day visit to Austria that ended on Tuesday.

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Lenin Centre, Governorpet, Vijayawada - 520 002 (A.P.)
NIT No. 07/CE/ MAU61-USI0HB(OTH)/107/2022-HB Dt. 04.01.2023
E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Name of Work : "Providing Temporary Steel Structure to establish High Court Digitization Centre at AP High Court premises, Nelapadu.- Tender-cum-Reverse Auctioning or Reverse Tendering."- **ECV- Rs. 2,17,82,015/-.** The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **06.01.2023 to 20.01.2023 up to 14.00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of Bid **20.01.2023 up to 15.00 Hrs.** Technical bid opening **20.01.2023 @16.00 Hrs.** For further details please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **www.crda.ap.gov.in.**
Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada.

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 26-12-2022 to 01-01-2023
Harbour Engineering Department
Tender ID: 2022_HED_545327_1 * Superintending Engineer HESC TVM * Punergeham Scheme_Construction of 400 flats in 8 acre land a * Closing Date: 10-Jan-2023 * PAC: Rs810000000
Visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** for more details.
Ro.No:26-01/Dec-Jan/2023/PRD/(N)13

KOCHI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A joint venture company of Govt. of India & Govt. of Kerala)
4th Floor, JLN Stadium Metro Station, Kaloor, Ernakulam-682017
Ph: 0484-2846700
E-TENDER
LICENSING OF ADVERTISEMENT RIGHTS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE TRAIN
Tender ID 2022_KMRL_542916_1
Last date of submission -17-Jan-2023 05:30 PM
Tender documents can be downloaded from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in / www.kochimetro.org
Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on websites

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbala Division, 2nd Floor, BBMP Building, J.C. Nagara Main Road, Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru-32
No:EE/HBL/TEND/30/2022-23 Date: 03.01.2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) **(STANDARD TENDER DOCUMENT KW - 4)**
Tenders on Item Rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or Equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Estimate Cost (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD in thousands
1	Comprehensive Developments and Improvements to Roads and Drains at UAS Layout in Ward No.67 Sanjaynagara.	67.00	Rs. 1,34,000/- (1.00 Lakh through e-payment balance Rs.34,000/- through BG, BG Should be submitted before last day of tender)
2	Construction of Ambedkar Samudhaya Bhavana at Kunthi Grama B Block in Ward No-70 Hebbala.	100.00	Rs. 2,00,000/- (1.00 Lakh through e-payment balance Rs.1,00,000/- through BG, BG Should be submitted before last day of tender)
3	Providing Water Supply facility to Kunthi Gramam and Improvements to Roads and Drains at Gundappa Reddy Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No-70 Hebbala	67.00	Rs. 1,34,000/- (1.00 Lakh through e-payment balance Rs.34,000/- through BG, BG Should be submitted before last day of tender)

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents can be uploaded from the e-portal on **05.01.2023**, **4:00** pm. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **10.01.2023** at **3:00** pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, 2nd Floor, BBMP Building, JC Nagar Main Road, Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru-560 032. (3) Last Date for uploading the Filled Proposals is **13.01.2023** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **16.01.2023** after **4:30** pm. (5) Date of opening of Financial Bid is **17.01.2023** after **4:30** pm. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer-Hebbala Division

Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute
(A Government of Puducherry Institution run by Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Medical College Society)
Vazhudavur Main Road, Kathirkamam, Puducherry - 605 009. Ph:0413-2277545, 2277543, Website: igmcri.edu.in, Email:puducherrymedicalcollege@gmail.com
No.254/IGMC&RI/Estt.II/Recruit/Dir/Dean/MS/2022 Dt. 03.01.2023
NOTIFICATION
CANCELLATION NOTICE OF RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR, DEAN & MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT ON DIRECT RECRUITMENT / DEPUTATION / CONTRACT BASIS IN IGMC&RI
The recruitment to the post of Director, Dean & Medical Superintendent on Direct Recruitment/ Deputation/Contract basis notified by this Institute vide Notification No. 254/IGMC&RI/ Estt-II/ Recruit/ Dir/ Dean/ MS/ 2022/ 2650 dated 17.08.2022 and published on 19.08.2022 stands cancelled due to administrative reasons.
DIRECTOR i/c
No:462/DIP/AD(Press)/2022-23

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 35-36/2022-23/PHC/KNR, **Jal Jeevan Mission -** Kannur-Kasaragod District- Keezhallur-Laying distribution system and providing FHTCs-Zone III, West Eleri Panchayath-Construction of Sump cum pump house, OHSR, Laying distribution system and providing FHTCs in Echipoyil area, **EMD :** Rs. 500000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19518/- each, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 27-01-2023 02:00 pm, **Phone :** 04972705902. Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-1348-2022-23 PH Circle, Kannur

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No: 83,84,85,86/2022-23/KWA/PHC/TVLA(RT-1), **(1) JJM** - providing 1201 FHTCs in Kozhencherry Panchayath (2) Providing 8983 FHTCs in Madappally Panchayath. (3) Providing 2793 FHTCs in Ranni-Perunad Panchayath. (4)JJM - Providing 8031 FHTCs in Enadimangalam Panchayath Supply and laying distribution system in all these Panchayats including road restoration works. **EMD:** Rs. 200000, 500000, 200000, 500000, **Tender fee:** Rs. 11800, 17700, 11800, 17700, **Last Date for submitting Tender:** 24-01-2023 02:00 pm, **Phone:** 04692600162.
Website: **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-1345-2022-23 PH Circle, Pathanamthitta

INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
(An Autonomous Body of Ministry of Enviornment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
P.O. NEW FOREST, DEHRADUN– 248 006 (UTTARAKHAND)
Expression of interest for empanelment of Individual Consultant and Domain Expert for carrying out Environmental Management Studies related to the consultancy projects of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education(ICFRE), an autonomous council of MoEF&CC, GoI is invited from interested and eligible experts in the field of **1. Flora and fauna**, **2. Hydrology, Soil and Water Conservation**, **3. Civil Engineering and Landscape Management**, **4. Air and Water Pollution**, **5. Mining Engineering** and **6. Mining Geology**. Application should reach to ICFRE on or before **05.02.2023.** Details of ad may be seen at ICFRE website **www.icfre.org** home page – recruitment.
Asstt. Director General (EM), ICFRE
Phone No. (O) 0135 – 2753882, E-mail: adg_eia@icfre.gov.in

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553
TENDER ALERT
1) E-Tender Call Notice No.ED-NZ-BLS-03/2022-23: Supply of (a) Lot-I: 220kV 1000 mm^2 , XLPE Copper cable & accessories and erection of cable accessories(Estimated cost: Rs.76,03,393.36) (b) Lot-II: 33kV 630mm^2 & 1000 mm^2 XLPE Copper cable and accessories (Estimated cost: Rs.2,17,18,118.77).
2)E-Tender Notice No.ED/CZ-03/22-23: Detail survey under the DRPS Phase-II scheme for laying of 132 kV UG Cabling for the different routes (Estimated cost Rs.57,00,128.00).
Complete set of bidding documents are available on the tender portal: **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** portal, and OPTCL's official website: **www.optcl.co.in**.
FIPR-65/2022-23
CAD-4360 OIPR-04011/11/0151/2223

Acid attack victims failed by lack of a cohesive law, legal process

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

One strong spurt of a hot liquid on her face from a steel mug and a terrible burning sensation – that is all Nirupama remembers from an otherwise regular day in 2013. The acid attack melted her left ear and disfigured her face permanently, causing physical and psychological scarring. What followed were 10 surgeries with more to come, innumerable hospital visits, and many rounds of the courts, which continue to this day.

But the perpetrator, the stalker whom she identified as her former teacher, was released after a short three-month stint in jail. The acid that scarred her for life can still be freely and cheaply bought from the shelves of neighbourhood shops in her village of Kamargaon in Darrang district of Assam.

This is the story of most acid attack victims in India since the first recorded incident in 1982.

Crime, no punishment

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data reveal that there has been no let-up in the number of this gender-based crime – in 2011, there were 83 acid attacks; in 2021, it grew to 176 (though down from 249 in 2019).

West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh consistently record the highest numbers of acid attacks, generally accounting for nearly 50% of all cases in the country year on year. In 2021, 153 men were charge-sheeted. Merely seven have been convicted.

Many activists say the lack of cohesive legislation in regulating the sale of acids and in ensuring punishment for perpetrators is probably the chief reason for their misuse.

They give the example of Bangladesh, where acid attacks came down drastically after the government brought in two laws dedicated to the control and prevention of this crime. The Bangladesh Acid Control Act, 2002 and the first and second Acid Crime Prevention Acts, 2002 restrict the import and sale of acid in open markets. Once known as a country with

Activists have been calling for strict curbs on acid sales.

the highest number of recorded acid attacks (496 in 2002), the number dropped to 70 in 10 years after the laws came into being, according to the non-profit Acid Survivors Trust International.

In India, the National Commission for Women floated a draft Prevention of Offences (by Acid) Bill in 2008, but it failed to see the light of the day.

However, following the Nirbhaya gang-rape case and the Justice Verma Commission report in 2013, the Union government amended the Indian Penal Code, recognising acid attacks as a separate offence with a minimum punishment of 10 years and a maximum of life imprisonment.

In the same year, following directives from the Supreme Court, the sale and procurement of acid in India was sought to be regulated under the Poison Act, 1919. Additionally, the court instructed governments to issue acid sale licences to select retailers. These authorised outlets were to ask for address and photo identity proof from the buyer. However, across the country and especially in rural India, there is little awareness of the laws and guidelines that regulate the sale and procurement of acid.

More rural cases

Alok Dixit, founder of Sheroes Hangout, an organisation working with acid attack survivors, says most attacks take place in rural or semi-rural areas, though those that get highlighted in the media are almost always from the cities, he said.

According to information shared by the NGO Chhanv Foundation, of which Mr. Dixit is the founder-director, of the 130 cases it was working on, 100 are from rural areas.

A study by Nalanda University in 2019 showed that in a majority of cases, acid attack victims are women who have resisted persistent declarations of "love" or proposals of marriage.

There is a need for a blanket ban on the use of acids except for industrial use, says senior Supreme Court advocate Colin Gonsalves.

Mr. Gonsalves cautions against any new law that can reduce either the punishment to the perpetrator or the compensation to the victim. "The Supreme Court has repeatedly awarded high compensations to acid attack victims, sometimes in the range of ₹30 lakh to ₹40 lakh, for their medical needs and rehabilitation," he said.

Over the years, there have been many Private Members' Bills introduced by MPs. However, the government has made no effort to adopt them.

Supreme Court advocate Vrinda Grover says it's simplistic to say that a standalone law can help acid attack victims secure justice and stop the easy availability of the chemicals.

"Post-Nirbhaya, we have recognised acid attacks as a crime and have Supreme Court-mandated guidelines for the sale and procurement of acids. However, the question here is to see how many State governments have actually formulated the rules for the same," Ms. Grover said.

INBRIEF

Bones, hair from forest match with Shraddha's family DNA

The Delhi police on Wednesday said that the results of a fresh DNA profiling test on a set of bones and hair strands that were recovered from forests in south Delhi's Mehrauli forest and Chhattarpur during investigation into the murder of Shraddha Walker, matched the samples provided by her family. Special Commissioner of Police (Land and Order Zone II) Sagar Preet Hooda said that the set of bones and hair strands, where the DNA couldn't be extracted, were sent to Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFC) in Hyderabad for DNA mitrocondrial profiling and the results received. "The bones will now be sent for a post-mortem examination that will be conducted by a medical board in AIIMS," Mr. Hooda said.

Pariksha Pe Charcha with PM to be held on January 27

Pariksha Pe Charcha is among the most exciting programmes that give an opportunity to discuss ways to make exams stress-free and support students, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday. Mr. Modi will interact with students, parents and teachers during the annual *Pariksha Pe Charcha* on January 27. The sixth edition of the interaction will be held at the Talkatora indoor stadium here. "*Pariksha Pe Charcha* is among the most exciting programmes, giving an opportunity to discuss ways to make exams stress-free and support our #ExamWarriors," Mr. Modi tweeted on Wednesday. The registrations for participation were open from November 25 to December 30. The Ministry of Education said the registrations (students: 31.24 lakh, teachers: 5.6 lakh and parents: 1.95 lakh) have more than doubled this year from the 2022 figure. PTI

Cabinet panel clears scheme to upgrade Prasar Bharati

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved the "Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND)" scheme with an outlay of ₹2,539.61 crore up to 2025-26, paving the way for upgrade and expansion of the public service broadcasting infrastructure across the country.

As a result, FM broadcasting of All India Radio (AIR) is expected to cover over 80% of the country's population, while eight lakh Doordarshan Free Dish DTH set-top boxes will be distributed to people living in remote, tribal and border areas, aspirational districts and zones affected by Left Wing Extremism.

"Prasar Bharati, as the public broadcaster of the country, is the most important vehicle of information, education, entertainment and engagement for the people especially in the remote areas of the country through Doordarshan and All India Radio... the BIND scheme will enable the public broadcaster to undertake a major upgrade of its facilities with better infrastructure which will widen its reach... and provide high quality content to the viewers," said a government statement.

Currently, Doordarshan operates 36 TV channels, including 28 regional ones, and AIR operates over 500 broadcasting centres.

In Uttarakhand town, houses develop cracks; families taken to safety

Hundreds of people march in protest on Wednesday; Chief Minister has called for a report from the district administration on the damage

Ishita Kumar
NEW DELHI

As many as 34 families living in Joshimath in Uttarakhand have been shifted to a community hall and a primary school after their houses developed deep cracks, leaving them in a panicked state.

There was a massive protest in Joshimath on Wednesday as hundreds of people took out a "*mashaal juloos*" (torchlight protest). They have also decided to keep markets shut on Thursday as a mark of protest.

According to the district administration, over 570 houses have developed cracks in the picturesque town, located around 50 km from the Badrinath temple. Among the 570 homes, 100 are not in a state to be used at all.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Additional District Magistrate Abhishek Tripathi said 28 families were moved to temporary rehabilitation centres created by the district administration in community halls on Wednesday, while six families were shifted from their damaged houses on Tuesday.

"We have made arrangements to evacuate 500 people. Evaluation of all the houses in the area is being done," Mr. Tripathi said.

Risks multiply: A house in Joshimath with a large crack spanning the ceiling and wall. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The local people claimed that the cracks were being seen in Joshimath for several years but their intensity had increased in the past one month. In the last 72 hours, even electricity poles had started leaning due to alleged construction work of some power plants. Some say that landslips have resulted in the cracks in homes. "People have started spending nights in the open braving the bone-chilling cold here because their homes are no more safe to stay," said Pooran Singh, a resident of Joshimath.

Atul Sati, convener of the Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti (JBSS), said the revered town is sinking. "These cracks are scary and are getting deeper with each passing day," he added. He blamed the construction and blasting work undertaken by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for the Tapovan-Vishnugad hydropower project for the cracks.

Shailendra Pawar, Municipal Corporation president of Joshimath, said the number of landslips had increased phenomenally in the area and nine wards have been badly impacted.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has the directed administration to send a report on the situation. "We have sent teams of scientists to review the situation, the administration is also compiling the report of houses that got damaged. Once we get the report, we will take a call on either shifting or rehabilitating the affected families," Mr. Dhami said in a statement.

Man urinates on co-passenger on Air India flight

Jagriti Chandra
Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

An elderly woman passenger had a traumatic flight when a heavily inebriated co-traveller urinated on her on Air India flight 102 from New York for Delhi on November 26, but the airline not only failed to hand him over to security personnel but also forced the woman to sit in the urine-soaked seat for a part of her journey.

The woman and the man, also a senior citizen, were travelling in business class. But the airline filed a police complaint only on December 28, and the city police registered an FIR on Wednesday under Sections 354 (sexual harassment), 294 (obscene act), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and 510 (misconduct in public by a drunken person) of the IPC and Section 23 of Aircraft Rules, 1937.

In a statement, the airline said it barred the passenger from flying with it for 30 days under rules of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, and reported the matter to the aviation regulator. But the DGCA had not received any report so far. The passenger recounted her harrowing tale in a letter to Tata Sons chairman N. Chandrasekaran the day she landed in Delhi. She wrote that shortly after lunch was served and the crew switched off the cabin lights, the man approached her and "unzipped his pants, relieved himself, and continued to expose his private parts" to her.

"My clothes, shoes and bag were completely soaked in urine. The stewardess followed me to the seat, verified that it smelled of urine, and sprayed disinfectant on my bag and shoes," she wrote.

She was then given a set of pyjamas and disposable slippers. Though she asked for a change of seat, she was told no seats were available and was first offered a crew seat and then told to return to her soiled seat. Two hours later, she was given the steward's seat where she sat for the remaining five hours.

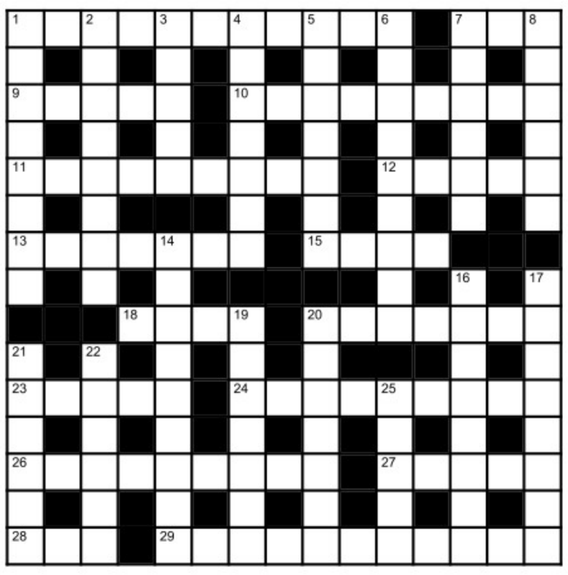
The airline has constituted an internal committee to "to probe lapses on part of Air India's crew". The passenger was refunded the fare. It is learnt that though she did not wish to report the incident to the police or aviation regulator, the airline is reviewing its standing instructions to crew in such situations as the DGCA rules require airlines and their personnel to proactively identify unruly passengers and prevent such incidents. "We are seeking a report from the airline and shall take action," DGCA chief Arun Kumar said. The Delhi police are trying to get the details of the accused who remains unidentified.

TH CROSSWORD + 13755

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Break off briefly, before beginning very early in the day (5,2,4)
7 Holder close to mark on rifle (3)
9 Assembly was somewhat mercurial (5)
10 The central parts more crisp from both - used in fragrances (5,4)
11 Listen to the first lady's descent, listen in (9)
12 One getting extremely upset, it's serious (5)
13 It may be crude to check dead for some pulse (7)
15 Yankee will return - American way to keep fit (4)
18 Old artist's back almost (4)
20 Hector Thoreau will listen patiently (4,3)
23 Lament for example, free to go west (5)
24 Fish gone bad inside basket (6,3)
26 Skin inflammation - doesn't take a second to get irritable and heedless (5,4)
27 Insert one in opening and reverse - works! (5)
28 Unpleasant fellow, very difficult to begin with (3)
29 Does he bother a woman with Sherlock Holmes' hat? (11)

Down

1 Planter's cheap trick lying in bed (8)
2 Those who come are fair, even with opponents (8)
3 Bard's stakeout? (5)
4 Sappers stopping the deluge, getting knocked over (7)
5 Waste a prize (7)
6 Longing about analogist (9)
7 Top military commander will reject, has to return (6)
8 Share allowed to be eaten (6)
14 Midday mirth seen all around - very observant (5-4)
16 Longing for Spooner's unknown peasant (8)
17 Employer broke rule, is it? (8)
19 A month left, time's up to proclaim (7)
20 Guesses meals after top level changes (7)
21 Handsome lad completely exposed - lady won't miss (6)
22 Covered with doubled protection for crime (6)
25 Another entry in the next race (5)

SUDOKU

6			9		5			7
5			1			3		6
9		2						5
8					7			
	7						4	
			3					1
2						6		4
7		6			4			8
3			7		6			9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS5670 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	3	9	1	4	5	2	6
2	9	5	3	6	7	4	8	1
1	6	4	5	8	2	9	3	7
3	1	7	2	9	8	6	5	4
4	5	8	1	7	6	3	9	2
9	2	6	4	3	5	1	7	8
6	7	1	8	5	3	2	4	9
8	3	2	6	4	9	7	1	5
5	4	9	7	2	1	8	6	3

FAITH

In praise of Herself

Parasara Bhatta wants to praise Goddess Mahalakshmi, but feels his skills are inadequate for the purpose. He then says perhaps on second thought he is the best person to praise Mahalakshmi, for if She were to accept his words of praise, then the whole world would become aware of Her grace. After all, it takes a lot of daya to accept the words of Bhatta, which are far from pleasing, says Parasara Bhatta. Having established that he is fit to praise Her, Bhatta wants his work to be widely accepted by learned men, said Thenthirupperai Aravindalochanan, in a discourse. But if men of consequence are to like his work, then it must be flawless. Having already admitted to his inability to express himself in the best possible words, how can he expect acceptance by scholars, if he is not in some way helped to write the work? And what better guide can he have than the Goddess Herself? So in sloka seven of his Sri Guna Ratna Kosa, Parasara Bhatta prays to the Consort of Lord Ranganatha, and asks Her to undertake the task of supplying the proper words to Bhatta!

Having sought Her help, Bhatta lists out all the qualities that he wants his work to have. The words in the work should be meaningful (vaidhagdhya). It is not enough that they have deep meanings. They must be pleasing to the ear too. This work of Parasara Bhatta's, because it is going to come from the Goddess Herself, will be pleasing to men of learning. The more they hear this work which has sweetness (maadhurya rasam), the more they will want to hear it. Such should be its appeal. "You Yourself, oh Lakshmi (SvayamEva Lakshmi), must complete this work (na: sookthim samagrayathu)" prays Bhatta.

BANGKOK

Myanmar Army leader hints at elections on Independence Day

AFP

Myanmar's ruling military leader Gen. Min Aung Hlaing pardoned over 7,000 prisoners, including some political detainees, and detailed plans for an election later this year during a ceremony on Wednesday marking the 75th anniversary of independence from Britain. AP

TOKYO

Japan's PM Kishida vows deeper alliance with the U.S. on defence

AFP

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday pledged to deepen his country's alliance with the U.S. under Japan's new defence policy that breaks from its exclusively self-defence-only stance in the face of growing regional tensions. Mr. Kishida said he will visit Washington for talks with President Joe Biden. AP

BRASILIA

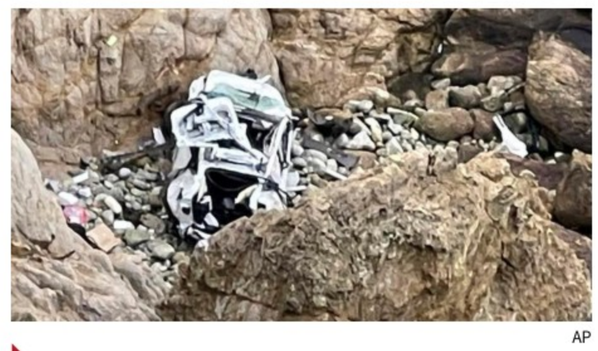
U.S., China among first destinations for Lula after becoming President

AFP

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will make his first official trip to Argentina at the end of January, before visiting the U.S., Portugal and China, an official said on Tuesday. While the date for U.S. trip is yet to be finalised, the China trip will come in March. He will be in Portugal from April 22 to 25. AFP

WASHINGTON

Indian-origin man arrested in U.S. for deliberately driving car off cliff



AP

A 41-year-old Indian-origin man has been arrested in the U.S. on suspicion of attempted murder and child abuse after he intentionally drove a Tesla car off a cliff with his wife and two children inside. Dharmesh A Patel of Pasadena will be booked into San Mateo County Jail after he is released from hospital. PTI

McCarthy fails anew in bid for Speaker, GOP in disarray

GOP leader vows to keep fighting despite failing to secure a majority after four rounds of voting. Two Black candidates nominated as contenders for the post by Democrats and a right-flank group

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Republican leader Kevin McCarthy failed anew to win the House speakership on Wednesday in dramatic fourth round voting as the chamber plunged into Day Two of the new Congress with no end in sight for the political chaos that GOP conservatives have created.

Renewed push: Kevin McCarthy, right, shakes hands with another leader at the U.S. Capitol Building on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

More of the same

Mr. McCarthy fared no better than he did on opening day ballots as 20 conservative holdouts rejected him with their votes. No minds appeared to have changed, and he fell far short of the 218 votes typically needed to win the gavel.

The California Republican vowed to keep fighting despite losing in multiple rounds of voting that threw the new majority into tumult a day earlier.

The House gaveled in at noon, and a McCarthy ally quickly re-nominated him for the job with a rousing speech designed to peel off detractors.

But the dynamic proved no different from Day One, as Democrats re-upped their leader, Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, for Speaker, and a right-flank leader from the Freedom Caucus offered a challenge to Mr. McCarthy – nominating Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Fla., in another history making moment. Both Mr. Jeffries and Mr. Donalds are Black.

First time in 100 years

It was the first time in 100 years that a nominee for House Speaker could not take the gavel on the first vote, but Mr. McCarthy appeared undeterred.

Instead, he vowed to fight to the finish, encouraged, he said, by former President Donald Trump to end the disarray and pull the Republican Party together.

Sunak vows to halve inflation, boost growth and stop illegal immigration

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Facing a country beset with problems that range from a cost of living crisis to deteriorating public services, U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak promised to halve inflation, grow the economy and reduce wait times for medical treatments in a speech that set out his policies for the year. Mr. Sunak, who has been in office for just over 10 weeks, also promised to reduce public debt, and crack down on illegal migration across the English Channel in a speech to an audience in London on Wednesday afternoon.

"So, five promises – we will: Halve inflation, grow the economy, reduce debt, cut waiting lists, and stop the boats," Mr. Sunak said, adding, "And we will have either achieved them or not."

Rishi Sunak

The Prime Minister also used his speech to indicate general policy directions for the country, including a new education policy that would make some form of mathematics compulsory up to the age of 18. He spoke about the value of family as being central to the policy direction of the current government.

Hours before Mr. Sunak's speech, the British Retail Consortium announced that food inflation in December had hit a record high of 13.3%. While overall inflation has shown signs of declining, the cost of living crisis has already impacted Britons significantly, including workers in the public sector.

Long waiting periods

Staff, such as ambulance drivers and nurses, at Britain's National Health Services (NHS) went on strike in December, demanding better pay and working conditions. This combined with health care staff shortages, a lack of sufficient hospital beds and surging influenza and COVID-19 winter infections has meant painfully long – and sometimes fatal – waiting periods to get treatment.

Asked why he should be trusted, when the country's burgeoning problems had been preceded by 13 years of Conservative government, Mr. Sunak pointed to his record during the COVID-19 crisis (when, as Chancellor, he had deployed a scheme that helped companies keep employees on their payroll).

With a general election looming in two years or less, Mr. Sunak, in his speech, repeatedly said he should be "held to account" for achieving his targets. However, he did not specify targets or time frames for all his five promises, acknowledging that some priorities may take more than one parliamentary term and others were not entirely in his control.

WHO worried over China's reporting of COVID figures

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The World Health Organization criticised on Wednesday China's "very narrow" definition of COVID deaths, warning that official statistics were not showing the true impact of the outbreak.

"We still do not have complete data," the WHO's emergencies director Michael Ryan told reporters.

"We believe that the current numbers being published from China underrepresent the true impact of the disease."

His comments came amid concern over China's rise in COVID infections since Beijing last month abruptly lifted years of hardline restrictions.

Ukraine targeted troops after mobile phone use: Russia

Associated Press
KYIV

Unauthorised use of mobile phones by Russian soldiers led to a deadly Ukrainian rocket attack on the facility where they were stationed, according to the Russian military, as it raised the death toll from the weekend attack to 89.

Gen. Lt. Sergei Sevryukov said in a statement late on Tuesday that phone signals allowed Kyiv's forces to "determine the coordinates of the location of military personnel" and launch a strike.

The Russian military is taking unspecified measures to "prevent similar tragic incidents in the future," Mr. Sevryukov said, and promised to punish officials responsible for the blunder.

The attack, one of the deadliest on the Kremlin's forces since the start of the war over 10 months ago, occurred one minute into the new year, according to Mr. Sevryukov.

It was the latest blow to the Kremlin's military prestige as it struggles to progress with its invasion of its neighbour.

Ukrainian forces fired six rockets from a U.S.-provided HIMARS multiple launch system at a building where the soldiers were stationed. Two rockets were downed but four hit the building and detonated, prompting the collapse of the structure. Details of the strike have trickled out in recent days.

Putin sends missile ship on training mission

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday presided over the launch of a warship armed with new Zicron hypersonic cruise missiles on a training mission to the Atlantic and Indian Oceans and the Mediterranean.

"I am sure that such powerful weapons will make it possible to reliably protect Russia from potential external threats and will help ensure the national interests of our country," Mr. Putin was quoted as saying.

Mr. Putin and Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu took part in a ceremony for the start of the mission via video conference.

Twin car bombings by Al-Shabaab in Somalia kill 19 people

Agence France-Presse
MOGADISHU

Nineteen people have been killed in twin car bombings in central Somalia claimed by Al-Shabaab, a local militia commander in the Hiran region said.

Two cars packed with explosives were simultaneously detonated in Mahas, a town in Hiran where a major offensive was launched last year against the Al-Qaeda-linked militant group.

The attack was claimed by Al-Shabaab, which has been waging a years-long insurgency against the fragile central government, according to the SITE monitoring group.

"Nineteen people, including members of the security forces and civilians, died in the blasts," said the leader of a community militia allied with the government in Mahas.

Another community leader, Mohamud Suleyman, said 52 people were wounded and "most were transported to Mogadishu for treatment."

Officials and local leaders said two military bases were targeted in Mahas in retaliation for operations against the militants.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my client has entered into agreement to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owners **(1) Sri.Manoj Kumar P.Jain** S/o Sri.Panechand A.Jain, **(2) Smt.Latha.M.Jain** W/o Sri.Manoj Kumar P.Jain, **(3) Sri.Kumar D.Seth** S/o Sri.Dinesh Seth, **(4) Smt.Sunita K.Seth** W/o Sri.Kumar D.Seth, **(5) Sri.Kewal Chand M.Jain** S/o Sri.Mithalal Jain, **(6) Smt.Pushpa K.Jain** W/o Sri.Kewal Chand M.Jain, **(7) Sri.G.Ramesh** S/o Sri.Y.Gopala Krishna Chattiar and **(8) Smt.R.Sujatha** W/o Sri.G.Ramesh, residing in the Schedule property.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential apartment known as "LEO RESIDENCY" comprised of basement, ground, first and second floors, bearing Municipal Nos.5 (PID No.50-7-5), 6 (PID No.50-7-6), 6/1 (PID No.50-7-6/1), 6/2 (PID No.50-7-6/2), 6/3 (PID No.50-7-6/3), built in the land/property baring Municipal No.5 & 6, measuring East to West 100 ft and North to South 50 ft, in all measuring 5000 Sq.ft, situated at Maharastra Mahila Vidyalaya Road (also known as M.M.V. Road), Visweswarapuram, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Conservancy
West by : Road
North by : Property No.99
South by : Private Property

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-2/F-76(5)/22-23/10255-56 Date: 04.01.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through E-Procurement Mode)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry no: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/ EE(O)/AEE-2/22-23/EPR-31/CALL-3 Dt:18.10.2022 for **Reconditioning/Repair of EMCO make, Sl. No: HT-1420/11846, 20MVA Transformer-2 at 66/11kV A-Station in NRS Rajajinagar Division, BMAZ North Circle, Bengaluru on total turnkey basis on Percentage tender basis.**

The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "e-Procurement-KPTCL" or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **06.01.2023.**

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,
Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ North Circle, Ground Floor, KPTCL Office Complex, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No. BMICAPA/CLU-02/50/2022-23/1558 Date: 04.01.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

M/s Vaishnodevi Lush Greens Pvt.Ltd. its Representative Shri Vimal Jain Kataria & Others has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Industrial"** purpose under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining Sy.No: 3/1 Extent 01Acre-39Guntas, Sy.No: 3/2 Extent 0Acre-34½Guntas, Sy.No: 3/3 Extent 01 Acre-32Guntas, Sy.No: 3/4 Extent 0Acre-17¼Guntas, Sy.No: 3/5 Extent 0Acre-17¼Guntas, Sy.No: 4/1 Extent 01 Acre-25Guntas, Sy.No: 4/2 Extent 01 Acre-22Guntas, Sy.No: 4/3 Extent 02Acre-31Guntas, Sy.No: 4/4 Extent 00Acre-31Guntas, Sy.No: 4/5 Extent 01 Acre-26Guntas, Sy.No: 4/6 Extent 00Acre-31Guntas, Sy.No: 5/1 Extent 01Acre-12Guntas, Sy.No: 5/2 Extent 01Acre-13Guntas, Sy.No: 5/3 Extent 02Acre-19Guntas, Sy.No: 5/4 Extent 00Acre-26½Guntas, Sy.No: 5/6 Extent 00Acre-26½Guntas, Sy.No: 6/1 Extent 01 Acre-00Guntas, Sy.No: 6/2 Extent 00Acre-17Guntas, Sy.No: 6/3 Extent 01 Acre-20Guntas, Sy.No: 6/4 Extent 00Acre-38Guntas, Sy.No:7/1 Extent 00Acre-33Guntas, Sy.No: 7/2 Extent 01 Acre-39Guntas, Sy.No: 7/3 Extent 00Acre-33Guntas, Sy.No: 7/4 Extent 00Acre-05Guntas, Sy.No: 7/5 Extent 00Acre-05Guntas, Sy.No: 7/6 Extent 00Acre-05Guntas, Sy.No:66/7 Extent 00Acre-08Guntas, Sy.No:67/1E Extent 00Acre-17Guntas, Sy.No: 67/2F Extent 00Acre-18Guntas, Sy.No: 70 Extent 04Acre-32Guntas totally measuring 34Acre-33Guntas of Chikkakuntanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) Establishment of an industry would help to develop the near by villages
2) Establishment of an industry would create job opportunities for the local population and this in turn would improve the living conditions of the local population.
3) Establishment of an industry will give job opportunities to Farmers Children and Encouragement for the Education.
4) Establishment of an industry will give more tax benefits to Government. Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file .his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 16 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after 16 days will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/3877/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Gandhinagar Division, Bengaluru - 560009.

No: EE/GNR/TEND/22/2022-23 **Date: 04-01-2023**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, BBMP invites Request for Proposal from Interested Persons / Firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management Consultancy (PMC) for the Works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Project Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Providing Project Management Consultancy Services (PMC) for the Work of Comprehensive Development Works and Allied Works in Arundathi nagara Slum, Swatantrapalya, Sanjaygandhinagar Slum and Surrounding Slums Connecting Roads in Ward No. **95 and 96. PKG-1**	**2285.00**	**45,700/-**
2	Providing Project Management Consultancy Services (PMC) for the Work of Comprehensive Development Works and Allied Works in Lakshmanapuri Slum, Himalaya Slum, Muneshwara Block Slum, Vivekananda Block Slum and Surrounding Slums Connecting Roads in Ward No. **77 and 94. PKG-2**	**2240.00**	**44,800/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) RFP Documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Portal Website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 06-01-2023. 2)** Any Queries: **09-01-2023 at 4.00 PM. 3)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **16-01-2023 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **17-01-2023 at 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, BBMP.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU

International Institute of Information Technology, Naya Raipur
Plot No.7, Sector 24, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur - 493661, (C.G.), India

E-TENDER NOTICE

Following tenders are invited on behalf of Director IIIT-NR from interested bidders:

Sl.No.	Tender Enquiry Number	Description of Tender
1.	IIIT-NR/PO/CGProc/VNA/2022 Dated: 22/12/ 2022	Tender for Supply & Installation of VNA 10 MHz to 67GHz with core Software & Hardware and High Frequency Measurement Cables for up to 67GHz at IIIT Naya Raipur
2.	IIIT-NR/PO/CGProc/ Time_Domain_VNA/2022 Dated: 21/12/2022	Tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Time Domain Analysis with Perpetual License along with associated software for VNA (10MHz to 67 GHz) andSupport subscription with supporting Test port cable set and measurement 50ohm Load, Ecal module for 67GHz 2-port 1.85mm at IIIT NR
3.	IIIT-NR/PO/CGProc/Desktop/ 2022 Dated: 16/12/2022	Tender for Supply & Installation of Desktop Computers IIIT Naya Raipur
4.	IIIT-NR/PO/CGProc/Solar/ 2022 Dated: 16/12/2022	Tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Solar PVRoof Top Power Plants and LED Solar Street Light at IIIT Naya Raipur

Bidders can download complete set of bidding documents from e-procurement platform **https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in/** and IIIT-NR website **https://www.iiitnr.ac.in** from **16th Dec 2022** onwards. Bidders need to submit the bids online by uploading all the required documents through **https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in/**.

Purchase Officer

INBRIEF

U.S. FDA concludes inspection at Gland Pharma's facility

Gland Pharma's Dundigal unit, near Hyderabad, has received establishment inspection report from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) Office of Product Evaluation and Quality Center for Devices and Radiological Health. The issue of the report indicates closure of the inspection conducted in August 2022, the firm said in a filing. It was a pre-market inspection covering U.S. FDA's current good manufacturing practice regulations for medical devices.

U.S. FDA approves Aurobindo subsidiary's cancer drug copy

Aurobindo Pharma subsidiary Eugia Pharma Specialities has received final approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) to make and market Azacitidine for injection, 100 mg single-dose vial. A generic of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company's Vidaza for injection, it is expected to be introduced by this month. The approved product, indicated for treatment of cancer, has an estimated market size of $46 million for 12 months ended November 2022.

Ireland fines Meta €390 mn in latest privacy crackdown

Irish regulators hit Facebook parent Meta with €390 million in fines for online privacy violations and banned the company from forcing European users to agree to personalised ads based on their online activity. It is Ireland's Data Protection Commission's latest punishment for Meta for data privacy infringements, following four other fines for the company since 2021 that total more than €900 million. AP

CERC orders payment to coal power units for forced output

Last year, power stations using imported coal had ceased operating due to high input prices; the government had at the time directed the producers to resume generation to meet high demand

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Power plants that rely on imported coal should be fully compensated when forced to supply electricity, power regulator CERC said on Tuesday, paving the way for firms to recover losses resulting from a government order last year.

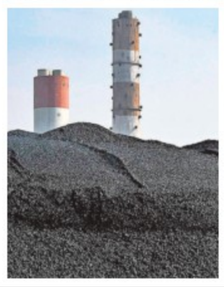
In May, India invoked an emergency clause in the Electricity Act to direct plants using imported coal to resume generation to meet high demand. The power stations, with a combined capacity of about 17 gigawatts, had ceased operating due to high coal prices. Power tariffs for plants using imported coal should cover their costs as well as a "reasonable profit margin," the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) said in its January 3 order.

The order came after Tata Power appealed to the CERC against the tariff fixed by the power Ministry after the directive last year forced them to keep operating to avert a power crisis in the country.

Other firms, including Adani Power and JSW Energy, would now be able to claim compensation for being compelled to supply power during that period, an industry official said.

Cost of power

Regulator CERC's order came on Jan.3 after Tata Power's appeal



- Power tariffs for plants using imported coal should cover their costs as well as a 'reasonable profit margin'
- Other firms, including Adani Power, and JSW Energy, too would be able to claim compensation for being compelled to supply power during that period
- Plants with 17 GW total capacity stopped operations before govt. order

Citi cuts FY23 CAD forecast to 2.9% of GDP as oil softens

Reuters
MUMBAI

Citigroup lowered its projection for India's current account deficit (CAD) to 2.9% of GDP for the current fiscal, citing the growth in service exports and lower oil price forecast. The brokerage had, in August last year, said it expected India's CAD to be 3.9% of GDP for the fiscal year ending March 2023.

"The key surprise came from the phenomenal growth in services exports in the first half... which goes beyond just software services," Samiran Chakraborty, chief economist for India at Citi, said in a note.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,657	-1.04
US Dollar	82.77	0.28
Gold	56,130	0.34
Brent oil	78.38	-7.15

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3827.05	-3.90
Adani Ports	810.00	-10.45
Apollo Hosp	4433.30	-57.60
Asian Paints	3016.85	-11.40
Axis Bank	957.45	-4.85
Bajaj Auto	3552.85	-48.85
Bajaj Finserv	1547.85	-15.15
Bajaj Finance	6571.00	-35.25
Bharti Airtel	811.80	-5.80
BPCL	336.30	-0.55
Britannia Ind	4235.00	-6.85
Cipla	1066.90	-9.00
Coal India	217.15	-6.95
Divis Lab	3435.55	42.55
Dr Reddys Lab	4253.50	15.15
Eicher Motors	3215.25	1.80
Grasim Ind	1690.30	-26.75
HCL Tech	1036.60	-4.75
HDFC	2625.70	-39.00
HDFC Bank	1610.05	-29.30
HDFC Life	598.60	3.00
Hero MotoCorp	2709.30	-11.10
Hindalco	461.50	-18.40
Hind Unilever	2536.10	-5.95
ICICI Bank	899.10	-2.25
IndusInd Bank	1223.10	-17.85
Infosys	1494.80	-27.75
ITC	327.00	-4.10
JSW Steel	736.30	-31.60
Kotak Bank	1820.75	-12.10
L&T	2070.55	-18.40
M&M	1236.20	-13.10
Maruti Suzuki	8422.80	40.05
NestleIndia	19519.90	-207.40
NTPC	166.60	-1.00
ONGC	146.25	-3.30
PowerGrid Corp	211.05	-4.55
Reliance Ind	2518.55	-38.50
SBI Life	1259.05	-9.35
State Bank	605.20	-7.20
Sun Pharma	1004.10	-5.00
TataConsumerProduct	762.25	-4.90
Tata Motors	385.60	-8.30
Tata Steel	115.75	-2.70
TCS	3314.65	3.30
Tech Mahindra	1020.30	-3.50
Titan	2597.55	-16.05
UltraTech Cement	7005.35	11.75
UPL	715.65	-3.70
Wipro	389.70	-7.35

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 04

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.60	82.92
Euro	87.72	88.06
British Pound	99.75	100.17
Japanese Yen (100)	63.27	63.54
Chinese Yuan	12.00	12.05
Swiss Franc	89.16	89.55
Singapore Dollar	61.70	61.95
Canadian Dollar	60.96	61.20
Malaysian Ringitt	18.77	18.85
Australian Dollar	56.75	57.02

Source:Indian Bank

Cards, mobile, net banking top complaint areas at banking ombudsman: RBI

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Issues related to ATM/debit cards and mobile/electronic banking were the top grounds of complaints received at the Office of Banking Ombudsman (OBO) during April 1 to November 11, 2021, the RBI said on Wednesday.

The volume of complaints received under the Ombudsman Schemes/ Consumer Education and Protection Cells during 2021-22 increased by 9.39% over the previous year and stood at 4,18,184, it said.

Complaints received under the Ombudsman Schemes in 2021-22 increased by 9.39%

Of these, 3,04,496 complaints were handled by the 22 Offices of RBI Ombudsman (ORBIOs), including the complaints received under the three erstwhile Ombudsman Schemes till November 11, 2021, it said in a report.

ATM/debit cards

Complaints related to ATM/ debit cards were the highest at 14.6% of the total, followed by mobile/ electronic banking at 13.6%. Majority 66.1% of maintainable complaints were resolved through mutual settlement/conciliation/mediation, it said.

The RBI further said the rate of disposal of complaints by ombudsmen improved to 97.9% in 2021-22 from 96.6% in 2020-21.

Sensex, Nifty slide 1% on fears of rate increase by U.S. Fed

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Key benchmark stock indices declined 1% on Monday owing to fears of an aggressive rate increase by the Federal Reserve, analysts said.

The S&P BSE Sensex fell 636.75 points, or 1.04%, to 60,657.45. Sensex stocks that lost the most were Tata Steel (2.32%), Power Grid (2.09%), Tata Motors (2.09%), Wipro (1.83%) and Infosys (1.82%).

The Nifty 50 index too slid 1.04%, to 18,042.95.

"Fears over aggressive rate hikes resurfaced ahead of the release of Fed meeting minutes, a meeting that left the door open for additional hikes," said Vinod Nair, head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

HDFC Bank loans rose 19.5% in Q3 to ₹15 lakh crore

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Private sector lender HDFC Bank on Wednesday said it had recorded a 19.5% increase in credit to ₹15 lakh crore for the third quarter ended December.

The bank had outstanding credit at ₹12.6 lakh crore at the end of December 31, 2021, HDFC Bank said in a regulatory filing.

On a sequential basis, the bank posted a 1.8% growth over the September 2022 quarter's figure of ₹14.7 lakh crore.

Tribunal declines Google's plea to block CCI's Android ruling

Reuters
NEW DELHI

An Indian tribunal declined a request by Google to block an antitrust ruling that ordered the tech giant to change its approach to its Android platform, dealing the U.S. firm a setback in a key growth market.

In October, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) fined Alphabet Inc.'s Google $161 million for exploiting its dominant position in markets, and asked it to change curbs on smartphone makers related to pre-installing apps.

Google counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi repeatedly pushed for putting the decision on hold, saying the CCI's decision will force the firm to change its business model and harm consumer interest.

China COVID cases, global economy fears drag oil

Reuters
LONDON

Oil fell sharply on Wednesday after slumping in the previous session, weighed down by concerns about weak demand due to the state of the global economy and China's rising COVID cases.

Brent futures fell $2.39 to $79.71 a barrel, a 2.9% loss, by 1309 GMT.

The benchmark plunged more than 4% on Tuesday, suffering its biggest one-day loss in more than three months.

India lags in automation of industry despite possessing tech prowess: robotics industry

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

India and China's exposure to industrial automation looks immensely different though both share a comparable story as far as consumption is concerned, industry officials said.

For instance, when China claimed to have a density of 187 robots per 10,000 employees, India only had four robots for an equal number of employees, indicating the latter was clearly lagging in terms of industrial automation despite technology prowess.

While China claims a density of 187 robots for every 10,000 employees, India only has four

"The data point tells us how unpenetrated India is when it comes to automation despite its technological advancements," said Sangeet Kumar, Co-Founder and CEO, Addverb Technologies, a global robotics company.

"However, we expect this narrative to change rapidly in the era of Industry 4.0," he said.

"Even after the adverse effects of the global pandemic, the investment in the robotics industry has doubled in a span of a year," said Sougandh K.M, country manager at Denmark's Universal Robots.

India's industrial robotic market stood at 3,200 units in 2020 and expected to reach 28,000 units by the year 2030.

'In 2022, two Chennai ports shipped 26% more vehicles'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The two major ports in Chennai collectively facilitated the export of almost 3.64 lakh vehicles to various countries during the calendar year (CY) 2022, recording an increase of 26% year-on-year.

While Chennai Port Trust (ChPT) exported 2.23 lakh cars, mostly those made by Hyundai Motor India, against 1.65 lakh units in CY21, Kamarajar Port Ltd. (KPL) shipped 1.41 lakh vehicles (1.25 lakh).

Sport

Varinder defeats Gaurav; Abhimanyu stuns Ashish

NATL. BOXING

Sports Bureau

Two-time defending champion Varinder Singh outpunched Gaurav Solanki, a 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist in 52kg, in a keenly-fought 60kg quarterfinal bout in the National boxing championships on the Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University campus at Hisar on Wednesday.

In the much-awaited bout, which grabbed maximum attention and ended with an unsavoury protest by Solanki, Asian bronze medallist Varinder posted a 5-0 victory to set up a semifinal date with Sunil Chouhan.

Southpaw Varinder relied on his fine footwork and impressive combination of right-left counter punches from a long range to stay ahead in the duel.

Dominant: Varinder came up with an impressive combination of right-left counter-punches from long range against Solanki. BFI MEDIA

Gaurav, making a comeback in a higher weight category, tried to catch up by landing some straight punches and effective right hooks, but Varinder quickly adjusted his game to deny his opponent any big advantage.

Protest

Gaurav, representing Haryana, protested the decision and stayed put in the ring for about half an hour.

Some of his supporters entered the field of play as the proceedings were held up for nearly an hour.

Local boy 18-year-old Abhimanyu Loura gave a power-packed performance to stun Olympian Ashish Kumar 5-0 in an 80kg quarterfinal bout.

Flurry of punches

In a clash featuring heavy exchange of punches, Abhimanyu, the nephew of former international woman boxer Chhotu Loura, seized initiative by landing a flurry of punches and rattling Ashish.

Ashish tried to close the gap, but the youngster, pumped up by a partisan crowd, punched to glory.

World championship medallists Manish Kaushik and Shiva Thapa recorded facile wins and will meet in the 63.5kg semifinals.

Important results (quarterfinals):

48kg: Govind Sahani (RSPB) bt Vikash Singh (UP) 5-0, Neeraj Swami (Del) bt Ashish (Har) 4-1;

51kg: Amarjeet Sharma (Pun) bt Ruchir Srivas (MP) 4-1, Bishwamitra Chongthan (SSCB) bt Yogesh (Har) 5-0.

54kg: Hritik (HP) bt Aguk Juja (Aru) 5-2.

57kg: Mohammad Hussamuddin (SSCB) bt Manish Rathod (UP) 5-0, Ashish Kumar (HP) bt Atul Dabas (Del) 4-1.

60kg: Varinder Singh (RSPB) bt Gaurav Solanki (Har) 5-0.

63.5kg: Shiva Thapa (Asm) bt Ashutosh Kumar (Pun) 5-0, Manish Kaushik (SSCB) bt N. Rohit Singh (Man) 5-0.

67kg: Rohit Tokas (RSPB) bt Nischaya (AIP) 5-0;.

75kg: Sumit Kundu (SSCB) bt Gourav Dabas (Del) RSC-I-R1.

80kg: Abhimanyu Loura (Har) bt Ashish Kumar (HP) 5-0.

92kg: Sanjeet (SSCB) bt Naman Tanwar (RSPB) 5-0, Naveen Kumar (Har) bt Rohit Bawa (Chd) 5-0.

+92kg: Sagar Ahlawat (RSPB) bt Sawan Gill (Chd) 5-0, Narender Berwal (SSCB) bt Kanishk Aryan (Jha) RSC-R1.

Arsenal held by Newcastle, Manchester United wins again

PREMIER LEAGUE

Reuters
LONDON

Arsenal's hopes of opening a 10-point lead in the Premier League title race were dashed by Newcastle United in a 0-0 draw at The Emirates but Manchester United's fine form continued as it eased to a 3-0 home win over Bournemouth on Tuesday.

The clash between first and third in London did not live up to its billing as Arsenal was frustrated by a Newcastle side who collected a 10th league clean sheet of the season.

United cemented its top-four place, moving level on points with Newcastle as goals by Casemiro, Luke Shaw and Marcus Rashford sealed a facile win at Old Trafford.

First strike: Casemiro slotting in United's first goal. GETTY IMAGES

Arsenal has 44 points from 17 games with champion Manchester City on 36 after playing 16.

Newcastle has 35 from 18 matches, ahead of United on goal difference although it has played a game more. In other matches, Everton was hammered 4-1 at home by Brighton & Hove Albion, while Fulham won 1-0 at Leicester City to move into seventh place in the table.

The results: Arsenal 0 drew with Newcastle 0; Everton 1 (Gray 90-pen) lost Brighton 4 (Mitoma 14, Ferguson 51, March 54, Gross 57); Leicester 0 Fulham 1 (Mitrovic 17); Manchester United 3 (Casemiro 23, Shaw 49, Rashford 86) bt Bournemouth 0.

HERO RETURNS

World Cup winner Messi back to club duty with Paris Saint-Germain

Seventeen days after guiding Argentina to an epic World Cup final victory over France, Lionel Messi reported back to work on Wednesday, Paris Saint-Germain announced. The 35-year-old joined the club's training as it prepares for Saturday's French Cup tie at third-tier side Chateauroux.

POSSIBLE SETBACK

Djokovic could miss U.S. events amid tightened vaccination rules

Novak Djokovic is set to miss the Indian Wells (March 6-19) and the Miami Open (March 20-April 2) ATP 1000 events this year if he remains unvaccinated against COVID-19, after United States authorities said non-nationals will need to have taken their shots to enter the country.

NEXT OPTION

Yuki Bhambri quits singles, targets doubles Grand Slam success

Yuki Bhambri said he has quit the singles format. The 28-year-old is the first big Indian player after Sania Mirza to quit singles to prolong his career. "No more singles for me. I did the best I knew and I am at peace with it. No regrets, there is nothing more I could have done," Yuki said. "I (had) decided in 2019 that doubles is the way forward."

NEW ALLEGIANCE

Gary Ballance set to make Zimbabwe debut

Former England batsman Gary Ballance is set to make his Zimbabwe debut later this month after he was named on Wednesday in the squad for this month's three-match Twenty20 series against Ireland. He is one of the four changes made to the 15-man side that represented Zimbabwe at the T20 World Cup.

Samson ruled out of series with injury, concern over Arshdeep

The latter, who was unavailable for selection in the first T20I due to an ailment, will be keen to pitch his trademark yorkers should he get to play, as India looks to seal series

SRI LANKA IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

Wily customer: Arshdeep's inclusion will strengthen India's attack. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

After escaping a late charge by the Sri Lankan all-rounders at Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday night, Hardik Pandya and Co. – along with their islander counterparts – took a bus ride on Wednesday afternoon to the home of Maharashtra cricket. While neither team bus halted at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium towards the end of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, the Indian side was struck with a blow ahead of the second T20I.

Sanju Samson, the enigmatic batter-wicketkeeper, has been ruled out of the remaining two matches after hurting his knee in the series-opener. In the 13th over of Sri Lanka's chase, Samson jammed his knee while fielding at long-on, thanks to a rugged Wankhede outfield.

While the team travelled to Pune, Samson stayed back in Mumbai, awaiting reports of his scan. Jitesh Sharma, the Vidarbha wicketkeeper-batter, has been drafted in his place as cover for Ishan Kishan.

Samson's injury adds to concerns over Arshdeep Singh's availability. The left-arm pacer, who was supposed to lead the inexperienced pace attack, was missing in action on Tuesday.

Despite being involved in high-catches drill during the squad's warm-up, Arshdeep was said to be unavailable for selection due to an ailment. Having travelled to the city where he first impressed head coach Rahul Dravid during the Under-19 Challenger Trophy ahead of the 2018 U-19 World Cup, Arshdeep will be keen to pitch his trademark yorkers.

If Arshdeep is available, India will be in a quandary over whether to bench Harshal Patel or Shivam Mavi. While Harshal had a decent outing, Mavi made the most of his maiden outing by emerging as only the third Indian bowler to pick four wickets on T20I debut.

Umran Malik, having bowled a ferocious delivery that clocked 155 kph on the speed gun to dismiss Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka, is indispensable.

The local crowd will be hoping for Rahul Tripathi's long wait for his debut cap to end at his home ground. Ever since his maiden call-up to India's squad last year, Tripathi has been a part of the squad for four T20Is and nine ODIs so far, without getting a look-in.

With Ruturaj Gaikwad also in the reserves, it will be the first time an international will be played at Gahunje with two hometown heroes in the squad.

While the locals will be hoping for both of them to feature in the game, Samson's injury has opened the doors for Tripathi to be given a go.

The onus will be on India's middle order to ensure the team doesn't stutter in the middle overs, like it did on Tuesday.

If it can dominate the Lankan spin duo of Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana, the series can definitely be sealed on Thursday.

The teams (from):
India: Hardik Pandya (Capt.), Suryakumar Yadav (Vice-capt.), Ishan Kishan (wk), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Umran Malik, Shivam Mavi and Mukesh Kumar.
Sri Lanka: Dasun Shanaka (Capt.), Wanindu Hasaranga (Vice-capt.), Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Sadeera Samarawickrama (wk), Kusal Mendis (wk), Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Ashen Bandara, Maheesh Theekshana, Chamika Karunaratne, Dilshan Madushanka, Kasun Rajitha, Dunith Wellalage, Pramod Madushan, Lahiru Kumara and Nuwan Thushara.
Match starts at 7 p.m.

After bronze in first edition, India bagged silver in the next

Creditable: The Indian team went all the way to the final before losing to the Netherlands in the 1973 edition. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Conceived jointly by India and Pakistan as the premier standalone competition for hockey outside of the Olympics and approved by the International Hockey Federation in 1969, it still took 13 long years and four editions of the event to be held in the Indian subcontinent for the first time.

While the first edition in 1971 was allotted to Pakistan before being moved to Spain due to political and security issues, India was supposed to host in 1975 before governance issues forced it to be moved to Malaysia. While the initial editions were held every two years, since 1982 the tournament has been held every four years, bisecting the Olympic cycle.

1971, Barcelona (Oct. 15-24)
Not hosting the event did not affect Pakistan's performance. The reigning Olympic champion rode on some impressive performances from the likes of Islahuddin Siddique, penalty-corner specialist Tanvir Ahmed Dar – who was also the top-scorer of the tournament with eight goals – and Abdul Rashid to claim the inaugural edition, the only invitational one, defeating Spain 1-0 in the final to avenge its loss in the group stage.

India, bronze medallists in 1968 at Mexico, finished the group stage unbeaten with four wins in as many games before running into Pakistan in the semifinals, losing 1-2 to be out of the title race before a fighting 1-0 win against Kenya ensured the third spot. Pakistan thus became the first country to hold both the Olympic and World titles at the same time.

Top three: Pakistan, Spain, India

1973, Amstelveen (Aug. 24-Sep. 2)
The Netherlands became the first country to host and win the tournament, getting past India 4-2 in the final on penalty strokes after being tied 2-2 after full time and extra time, Ties Kruize scoring both goals for the host. The game used to be played for 70 minutes in two halves back then, with two halves of 15 minutes each as extra time before strokes were used as the tie-breaker.

India had remained undefeated through the group stage before running into Pakistan again. The reigning champion had finished on top of their group despite fielding a relatively inexperienced side – 11 of its players were serving bans for their misconduct after losing the 1972 Olympic final.

India managed to enter final against the host with a 1-0 win while the host had to endure a tie-breaker against Germany in the semifinals.

Top three: Netherlands, India, West Germany

Pant airlifted to Mumbai, set to undergo surgery: BCCI

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Star India batter Rishabh Pant is all set to "undergo surgery for ligament tears", the BCCI stated on Wednesday, effectively ruling him out of competitive cricket for an indefinite period.

Pant has been airlifted from a Dehradun hospital to Mumbai where he will undergo extensive treatment for ligament injuries in the knee and ankle which he had sustained during a car crash on Dec. 30, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a press release.

The BCCI decided to shift Pant to Mumbai by air ambulance since he is not in a position to fly by a commercial airline.

"He will be admitted to Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and Medical Research Institute and will be under the direct supervision of Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala," Shah said.

Cilic overcomes a mid-match blip to get past Carballes Baena

TATA OPEN

N. Sudarshan
PUNE

Good enough: Cilic wasn't at full throttle, but controlled his shot-making against Carballes Baena. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Marin Cilic is evidently in a happy space. In his first media interaction, the burly Croat of gentle demeanour extended New Year greetings with a wide grin and jokingly grabbed at a few phone recorders as if they were gifts for him. He even charmed the local populace by calling the Pune weather the best on tour.

On Wednesday at the Balewadi Stadium, the calmness and serenity reflected on court, as he overcame a mid-match blip to beat Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 and enter the singles last eight at the Tata Open Maharashtra.

The top seed wasn't quite at full throttle, but controlled and calculated in his shot-making. Most of his hits were cross-court, to open up space either with inside-out forehands or double-handed backhand drives and then look for the easy put-away.

They also served as iterative exercises to assess the range and the power required, for playing clean first-strike tennis can be tough under lights here in Pune. A solitary break in the fourth game was all that was required to give him the set.

But at 2-3 in the second, the World No. 17 relaxed a tad and Carballes Baena was quick to capitalise by breaking Cilic. Even as the crowd anticipated a comeback, the Spanish World No. 74 took care of his serve remarkably well, holding to love and 30 to clinch the set 6-3 and level the contest.

Cilic, however, pressed the reset button and came back from the changeover with guns blazing. He ran up a 5-0 lead in no time, losing just three points in all. Even as his murderous serve – 16 aces in the match – elicited from the audience the usual gasps and whoops, what stood-out was his court-coverage, as he raced around like greased lightning.

Carballes Baena, admirably, refused to roll over and even earned two breakpoints in the seventh game. The result, though, was never in doubt.

Earlier in the day, the second-seeded Dutchman Botic Van de Zandschulp weathered a stiff challenge from the Italian qualifier Flavio Cobolli 7-5, 6-4, but the tournament's third and fourth seeds, Finland's Emil Ruusuvuori and Argentina's Sebastian Baez respectively, crashed out.

The results (Singles, second round): 1-Marin Cilic (Cro) bt Roberto Carballes Baena (Esp) 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; 2-Botic Van de Zandschulp (Ned) bt Flavio Cobolli (Ita) 7-5, 6-4; Benjamin Bonzi (Fra) bt 3-Emil Ruusuvuori (Fin) 6-1, 7-6 (4); Pedro Martinez (Esp) bt 4-Sebastian Baez 3-6, 6-1, 6-3; 6-Filip Krajinovic (Srb) bt Michael Mmoh (USA) 2-6, 6-3, 6-4; 8-Aslan Karatsev bt Tim van Rijthoven (Ned) 7-6 (7), 7-6 (8); Maximilian Marterer (Ger) bt Laslo Djere (Srb) 7-6 (5), 6-2; Tallon Griekspoor (Ned) bt Marco Cecchinato (Ita) 6-4, 6-4.

Cilic believes quite a few from the new crop will soon morph into champions

N. Sudarshan
PUNE

> Last season was interesting and quite a few guys opened quite a few doors

Marin Cilic knows a thing or two about knocking at the door before breaking it open. A contemporary of the Big Four (Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray), the Croat has done that all career, with his one glorious high coming at the 2014 US Open.

Now, as the stranglehold of the Big Four has started easing, Cilic believes there are quite a few from the new crop who will soon morph into champions from being perennial threats, quite like how he once did.

Interesting season
"Last season was interesting and quite a few guys opened quite a few doors," Cilic said, on the sidelines of the Tata Open Maharashtra. "Felix's [Auger-Aliassime] end of the season was incredible, almost like Daniil's [Medvedev] in 2019 season, winning three titles and also the Davis Cup."

"Holger [Rune] winning Paris Masters, [Carlos] Alcaraz making that huge improvement from year to year...unbelievable. So mix them in Daniil, [Alexander] Zverev, [Stefanos] Tsitsipas... Casper [Ruud] is really consistent... so many guys are now close."

Cilic's another breaking-of-the-glass-ceiling moment came last year when he reached the French Open semifinal to become only the fifth active men's player (other than the Big Four) to reach at least the semifinal at all four Majors.

"It's an incredible achievement," the 34-year-old said. "If I was able to back that up with better performances at Masters 1000 tournaments, my career would have been even better than what it is.

Close match
"I played a close match with Casper (semis), almost getting to the final. It gives me great motivation that I'm still able to do it and there are openings for me still."

He is no doubt inspired by countryman Luka Modric, the 2018 FIFA World Cup Golden Ball winner, who at the grand old age of 37 is still at his resplendent best.

"I would say very inspiring. He is still producing incredible things at a world-class level. We [as a country] are very competitive, and we sort of push each other. It has also given me good strength and I have that enthusiasm to keep going and do something great."

INBRIEF

Shakeel leads Pakistan fight back with maiden century

Left-hander Saud Shakeel hit a maiden century on Wednesday before New Zealand hit back to keep Pakistan reach 407 for nine at close of the third day of the second Test in Karachi. Shakeel was batting on 124 and Abrar Ahmed yet to score.

The scores:
New Zealand 449 vs Pakistan 407/9 in 132 overs (Imam-ul-Haq 83, Saud Shakeel 124 batting, Sarfaraz Ahmed 78, Agha Salman 41, Ajaz Patel 3/88).

Khawaja, Labuschagne crack fifties on rainy opening day

Marnus Labuschagne and Usman Khawaja scored half-centuries as Australia made the best of a rainy first day to be 147 for two at stumps in the third Test against South Africa in Sydney on Wednesday. Opener Khawaja was 54 not out and Steve Smith yet to face a ball when rain halted play midway through the final session.

The scores: Australia 147/2 in 47 overs (Marnus Labuschagne 79, Usman Khawaja 54 batting) vs South Africa. **Toss**: Australia.

AFI postpones Patna National junior inter-district meet

The Athletics Federation of India and the Sports Development Authority of Bihar have postponed the 18th National junior inter-district athletics meet which was to begin at the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna on January 12 due to extreme cold weather and disruption in train services. The meet will now be held at the same venue from February 10 to 12. "The cold wave, leading to schools being closed, and disruptions in train services have forced the rescheduling of the meet," said AFI president Adille Sumariwalla.

Mayank's unbeaten century drives Karnataka's strong reply

Samarth provides an ideal foil in a 163-run opening stand after five-wkt. hero Kaverappa and Koushik keep Chhattisgarh in check in the morning session

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Karnataka openers Mayank Agarwal (102 batting, 191b, 9x4, 5x6) and R. Samarth (81, 127b, 11x4) built on the good work done by the bowlers on the second day of the Ranji Trophy Elite Group 'C' match against Chhattisgarh here on Wednesday.

The morning session belonged to Karnataka pacers Vidwath Kaverappa (5/67) and V. Koushik (4/43), who took Chhattisgarh down for 311. Skipper Mayank and Samarth then shone bright, putting on a 163-run opening stand to guide Karnataka to 202 for one at the end of play.

Karnataka trails by 109 runs, but with wickets in hand, can be expected to take the first-innings lead.

Sublime knock: Mayank showcased an array of strokes while notching up his 13th First Class hundred. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Making it count

Mayank, with scores of 73, 51 and 50 in his previous three outings, made it count this time. He started tentatively, fishing dangerously outside off. Once he settled in, the right-hander unleashed the full array of strokes.

He moved to his 13th First Class hundred with two big sixes off left-arm spinners Mandal and Sumit Ruikar. A relieved Mayank raised his hands in celebration and acknowledged the cheers from the handful of spectators at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Samarth delighted with elegant cover drives, and when the bowlers shaped it into his pads, he flicked through mid-wicket with elan.

Samarth missed the chance to get his fourth straight hundred when a leading edge landed in the hands of the bowler Ajay Mandal.

The Chhattisgarh bowling was flat and purposeless. For the most part, Mandal and Ruikar resorted to a defensive leg-stump line.

The field set, however, did not support this attempt to stop the run flow.

The deep square-leg was too far out to catch the top edges, or to stop the singles when the batters flicked it off the hips.

Earlier, Kaverappa triggered the Chattisgarh collapse by taking two wickets in the eighth over of the day. He trapped overnight batter Shashank Singh leg-before, and in the very next delivery, flattened Mandal's stumps with a yorker.

Kaverappa bowled splendidly to record his maiden First Class five-for.

Koushik, who replaced an injured Ronit More for this game, went on to clean up the tail.

The scores: Chhattisgarh — 1st innings: Avnish Singh c Sharath b Kaverappa 0, Anuj Tiwari c Sharath b Koushik 0, Ashutosh Singh c Sharath b Koushik 135, Harpreet Bhatia c Sharath b Vyshak 34, Amandeep Khare c Sharath b Kaverappa 93, Sumit Ruikar b Kaverappa 0, Shashank Singh lbw b Kaverappa 13, Ajay Mandal b Kaverappa 0, Mayank Verma (not out) 15, Sourabh Majumdar b Koushik 0, Ravi Kiran c Pandey b Koushik 0; Extras (b-9, lb-7, w-3, nb-2): 21; Total (in 109.3 overs): 311.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-1, 3-43, 4-253, 5-253, 6-284, 7-284, 8-305, 9-311.

Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 28-5-67-5, Koushik 26.3-9-43-4, Vyshak 23-7-56-1, Gopal 16-0-70-0, Gowtham 16-3-59-0.

Karnataka — 1st innings: R. Samarth c & b Mandal 81, Mayank Agarwal (batting) 102, Vishal Onat (batting) 15; Extras (b-1, lb-2, nb-1): 4; Total (for one wkt. in 64 overs): 202.

Fall of wickets: 1-163.

Chhattisgarh bowling: Kiran 11-2-22-0, Majumdar 10-0-47-0, Shashank 7-2-23-0, Mandal 21-1-61-1, Ruikar 15-3-46-0.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES (ROUND FOUR, DAY TWO)

Elite: Group A: Nagaland 433 in 142.5 overs (Shrikant Mundhe 66, Chetan Bist 129, Hokaito Zhimomi 59, Sedezhalie Rupero 71 n.o.) vs. Odisha 111/0 in 31 overs (Anurag Sarangi 75 batting).
Bengal 387 in 120.5 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 165, Sudip Kumar Gharami 90, Shahbaz Ahmed 40 n.o., Mayank Mishra 6/95) vs. Uttarakhand 104/6 in 43 overs (Kunal Chandela 40 batting).
Haryana 140/5 in 46 overs (Ankit Kumar 80 batting, Aaqib Khan 4/50) vs. Uttar Pradesh. **Toss: U.P.**
Baroda 355 in 97.2 overs (Priyanshu Moliya 47, Vishnu Solanki 178) vs. Himachal Pradesh 223/1 in 80 overs (Raghav Dhawan 56, Prashant Chopra 111 batting, Ankit Kalsi 54 batting).
Group B: Andhra 135 & 230/3 in 48 overs (C.R. Gnaneshwar 72, Ricky Bhui 43 batting, K.S. Bharat 70 batting) vs. Hyderabad 197 in 63.1 overs (Mehrotra Shashank 47, Nitish Kumar Reddy 4/64).
Assam 274 in 87.4 overs (Swarupam Purkayastha 65, Akash Sengupta 65) vs. Maharashtra 307/2 in 87 overs (Siddhesh Veer 94 batting, Naushad Shaikh 47, Kedar Jadhav 142 batting).
Delhi 133 vs. Saurashtra 503/6 in 135 overs (Harvik Desai 107, Chirag Jani 75, Arpit Vasavada 127 batting, Samarth Vyas 54, Prerak Mankad 64).
Tamil Nadu 144 & 62/1 in 16 overs vs. Mumbai 481 in 106.4 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 42, Sarfaraz Khan 162, Tanush Kotian 71, Mohit Avasthi 69).
Group C: Chhattisgarh 311 in 109.3 overs (Ashutosh Singh 135, Amandeep Khare 93, Vidwath Kaverappa 5/67, Vasuki Koushik 4/43) vs. Karnataka 202/1 in 64 overs (R. Samarth 81, Mayank Agarwal 102 batting).
Pondicherry 216 vs. Services 378/5 in 102 overs (Ravi Chauhan 43, Rahul Singh 137, Rajat Paliwal 101, Lovekesh Bansal 47 batting).
Kerala 265 in 95.3 overs (Rohan Prem 112, Sachin Baby 46, Lakshay Garg 4/44) vs. Goa 200/5 in 79 overs (Ishaan Gadekar 76 batting).
Jharkhand 92 & 66/0 in 25 overs vs. Rajasthan 287 in 81.2 overs (Yash Kothari 52, Karan Lamba 122 n.o., Ashish Kumar 5/75).
Group D: Chandigarh 455/3 in 114.4 overs (Arslan Khan 73, Manan Vohra 200, Kunal Mahajan 162 batting) vs. Tripura.
Punjab 286 in 96.1 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 43, Nehal Wadhera 123, Anmol Malhotra 41, Chintan Gaja 5/66) & 156/6 in 39 overs (Naman Dhir 71 batting) vs. Gujarat 97 in 34.2 overs (Baltej Singh 7/28).
Railways 427 in 105.1 overs (Mohammad Saif 233 n.o., Abid Mushtaq 4/98) vs. Jammu & Kashmir 161 in 60.3 overs (Suryansh Raina 48, Akash Pandey 6/49) & 5/0 in 4 overs.
Madhya Pradesh 309 in 108.2 overs (Rajat Patidar 121, Saransh Jain 61, Yash Thakur 4/59) vs. Vidarbha 145/7 in 65 overs (Sanjay Raghunath 53 batting, Aditya Sarwate 40, Avesh Khan 5/32).
Plate: Mizoram 104 & 79/3 in 33 overs (Vanlalhruailuanga 42) vs. Manipur 277 in 106.1 overs (Kangabam Singh 49, Pheiroijam Singh 51 n.o., Taruwar Kohli 4/47).
Meghalaya 610/6 decl. in 135.3 overs (Raj Biswa 49, Kishan Lyngdoh 128, Punit Bisht 215, Tarique Siddique 102 n.o., Rajesh Bishnoi 57 n.o.) vs. Arunachal Pradesh 148/4 in 41 overs (Anup Ahlawat 123 batting).
Sikkim 66/6 in 35 overs (Veer Pratap Singh 4/3) vs. Bihar. **Toss: Bihar.**

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs South Africa: 3rd Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Pakistan vs New Zealand: 2nd Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.30 a.m.
Tata Open: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 2 p.m. onwards
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
India vs Sri Lanka: 2nd T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Record-setting Harjinder Kaur lifts the women's 71kg gold

K. Keerthivasan
NAGERCOIL

Punjab's Harjinder Kaur, the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games bronze medallist, created a new record in clean & jerk (123kg) for a total of 214 kg to bag the senior women's 71kg gold in the National weightlifting championships here on Wednesday. Amandeep Kaur (AIPSCB) finished second with a total of 201kg.

"I am not very happy. I like snatch but I don't know why I am not able to give my best in competition," said Harjinder.

The results:
Women: 71kg: Senior: 1. Harjinder Kaur (Pun) 91, 123, 214; 2. Amandeep Kaur (AIPSCB) 88, 113, 201; 3. Meena Kumari Pawar (Pun) 83, 112, 195.
Junior: 1. Navdeep Kaur (Pun) 80, 114, 194; 2. Srasthi (UP) 84, 109, 193; 3. M. Lekhamaal YA (TN) 74, 102, 176.
Youth: 1. Chelsi (Del) 74, 96, 170; 2. R. Harini (Pon) 74, 92, 166; 3. Srishti Yadav (73, 91, 164).

76kg: Senior: 1. Lal Chhanhimi (Miz) 90, 120, 210; 2. Vandana Gupta (RSPB) 90, 114, 204; 3. Anjana Sreejith (Ker) 86, 112, 198.
Junior: 1. Anjana Sreejith (Ker) 86, 112, 198; 2. Sanjana (Har) 82, 111, 193; 3. V. Sahithi (TS) 79, 102, 281.
Youth: 1. Sanjana (Har) 82, 111, 193; 2. M. A. Hasina Shrin (TN) 78, 95, 173; 3. Heena (Pun) 71, 92, 163.
Men: 89kg: Senior: 1. Amarajit Guru (RSPB) 146, 176, 322; 2. Marush PS (SSCB) 142, 173, 315; 3. Gourav (AIPSCB) 140, 275, 315.
Junior: 1. Abhay Yadav (U.P.) 141, 171, 312; 2. Prince Malik (J&K) 147, 164, 311; 3. S. K. Lal Basheer (AP) 140, 166, 300.
Youth: 1. Sandhya More (Mah) 131, 156, 297; 2. G. Krishna (AP) 115, 150, 265; 3. Visvajeet Singh (Pun) 124, 128, 262.

Strongwoman: Harjinder on her way to a new mark in 71kg clean and jerk. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

USA beats Great Britain to advance to the mixed teams semifinals

UNITED CUP

Associated Press
SYDNEY

Frances Tiafoe beat Britain's Daniel Evans 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 on Wednesday to move the United States into the United Cup mixed teams tournament semifinals.

Tiafoe's victory gave the Americans a 3-1 winning lead in the best-of-five Sydney City Final.

It means the US will be among four teams in the semifinal portion of the tournament that begins on Friday at Sydney's Ken Rosewall Arena.

Earlier, World No. 3 Jessica Pegula gave the United States a 2-1 lead by beating Britain's Harriet Dart 6-2, 6-0 in 57 minutes.

In the afternoon session, Madison Keys moved

One step further: Team USA poses with its Sydney City Final winner's medals after victory in the City Final. GETTY IMAGES

USA ahead after rallying from a set down to defeat Katie Swan 2-6, 6-3, 6-4. But World No. 14 Cameron Norrie came back to post a 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 win against No. 9 Taylor Fritz to level the match.

"I think I did everything really well today. I could feel it. Some days you come out firing and you feel really good. I was honestly trying to settle myself down because I was seeing the ball really well today."

Matteo Berrettini beat Hubert Hurkacz 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 to give Italy a 2-1 lead over Poland in the Brisbane City Final before Poland won the fourth singles match to level it at 2-2 to send it to a deciding mixed doubles.

Earlier, World No. 1 Iga Swiatek of Poland levelled the tie by beating Italian Martina Trevisan 6-2, 6-4 after Lorenzo Musetti gave Italy the early lead by defeating Daniel Michalski 6-1, 6-1.

And in the third city final in Perth, Western Australia, Croatia and Greece were level at 1-1 ahead of the two remaining singles matches and a scheduled mixed doubles.

Donna Vekic beat Despina Papamichail 6-2, 6-0 to put Croatia ahead before Stefanos Tsitsipas beat Borna Coric 6-0, 6-7(4), 7-5 on his sixth match point.

The three city final winners and the next best-ranked team will play in Sydney from Friday to Sunday to determine the tournament champion.

Great Bengaluru 10K run on Sunday

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

The Great Bengaluru 10K run will be flagged off at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Sunday.

Over 7,500 runners have registered for the event, organisers said.

The run is organised by Karnataka Olympic Association and Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, and officiated by Karnataka Athletics Association.

Runners will compete in three categories – Timed 10K, Timed 5K and Fun 3K.

Pele's mausoleum to be decorated like stadium

Agence France-Presse
SANTOS

Pele was a footballer like no other, and his final resting place will be exceptional, too: a large replica stadium complete with artificial turf inside the world's tallest vertical cemetery.

The Brazilian football great, whose funeral was held on Tuesday after his death last week at age 82, bought his mausoleum 19 years ago inside the Memorial Ecumenical Cemetery, a veritable high-rise that holds the Guinness World Record for the tallest cemetery on Earth.

Located in Santos, the southeastern port city where "The King" played most of his storied career,

For "The King": The entrance to the mausoleum of Pele features statues of him. AP

the cemetery has a total area of 40,000 square meters and features a 24-hour restaurant, a chapel, an automobile museum, a small fish pond and an aviary.

Located on the first floor, Pele's 200-square-meter mausoleum will be decorated like a stadium, with his embalmed body resting in a coffin displayed in the middle of the artificial turf, surrounded by gilded images from his glory days, a spokesman for the cemetery said.

Edson Arantes do Nascimento – Pele's real name – had spoken openly about his planned resting place, saying in 2003 that he liked the spot because it "doesn't look like a cemetery" and gave him a feeling of "spiritual peace and tranquility."

Striking

The striking white building was conceived by late Argentine businessman Jose Salomon Altstut, who broke ground on the project in 1983. Officially inaugurated in 1991, it has a total of 18,000 interment spaces, and became the first vertical cemetery in the world to provide space for mausoleums.

The cemetery's website says clients are allowed to "create a decorated space" in their mausoleums.

Divya inches closer to title; Mary stays in the hunt

NATL. WOMEN'S CHESS

Sports Bureau

Divya Deshmukh moved closer to retaining the title after an uneventful 30-move draw with Isha Singh in the 10th and penultimate round of the MPL National women's chess championship at Kolhapur on Wednesday.

With 8.5 points, Divya's overnight one-point lead stood sliced by half following a 44-move victory for Mary Ann Gomes (8) over Srija Seshadri. An exciting finale is in the offing on Thursday.

Sharing the third spot were the victorious duo of top seed Vantika Agarwal and Bhakti Kulkarni at 7.5 points. Vantika got the better of former champion Soumya Swaminathan and Bhakti came out stronger against M. Mahalakshmi.

Eight players, though out of the title-race after aggregating seven points, stayed in contention for a place among the top-10.

A victory for Divya would have effectively ensured her the title with a round to spare. But all credit to Isha for snapping the four-game inning streak of the in-form defending champion.

In contrast, some pro-active play from Mary enabled her to checkmate Srija to keep alive her chances of regaining the title.

Leading results: 12th round: Isha Sharma (7) drew with Divya Deshmukh (8.5); Srija Seshadri (6.5) lost to Mary Ann Gomes (8); Vantika Agrawal (7.5) bt Soumya Swaminathan (6.5); V. Varshini (7) drew with Sakshi Chitlange (7); Bhakti Kulkarni (7.5) bt M. Mahalakshmi (6); Rucha Pujari (7) bt Vrushali Deodhar (6); Bhagyashree Patil (6) lost to Arpita Mukherjee (7); G. Tejaswini (6) lost to Nisha Mohota (7); Vishwa Shah (7) bt C.M.N. Sunyuktha (6); A.G. Nimmy (7) bt Samriddhaa Ghosh (6).

Important final-round pairings: Divya-Bhakti; Mary-Rucha; Nisha-Vantika; Sakshi-Nimmy; Vishwa-Isha.